THE ALPENA NEWS

FOOTBALL '88

SECTION C THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1988 40 PAGES

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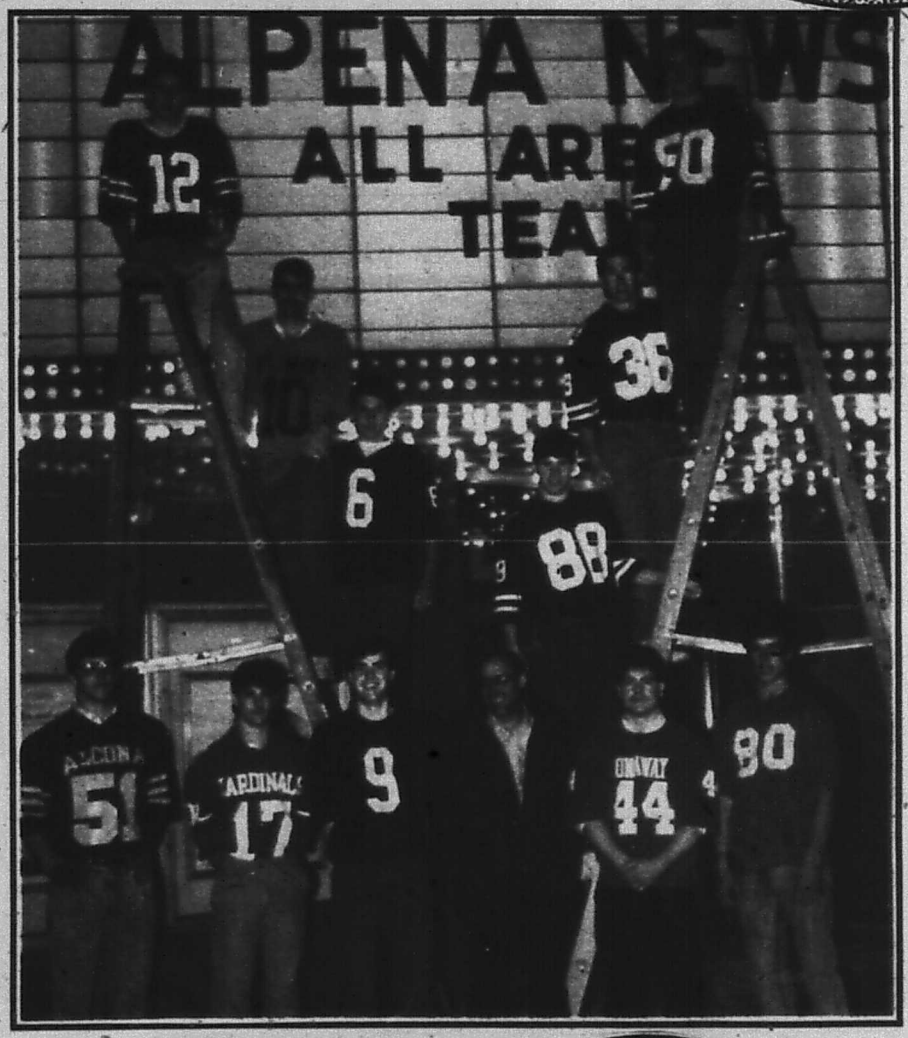

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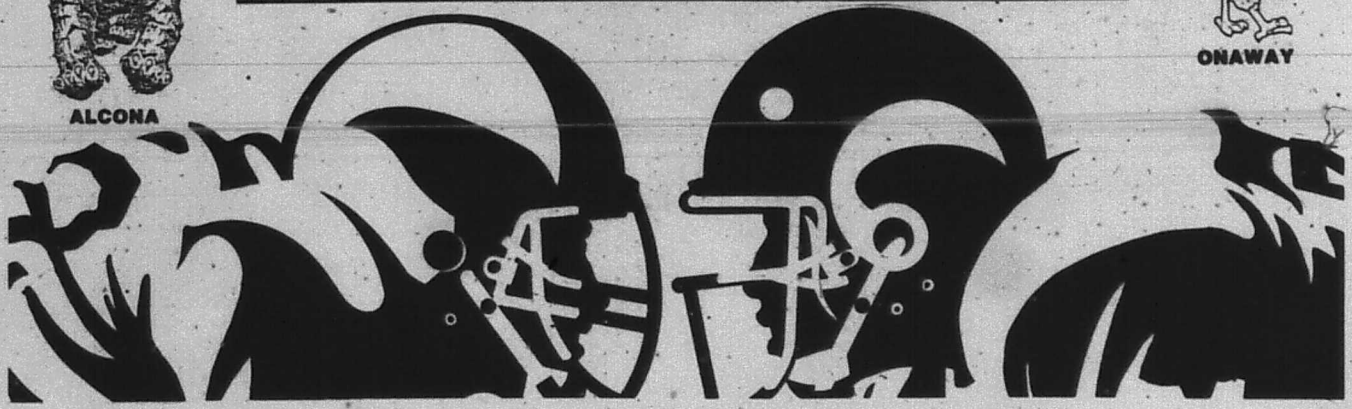

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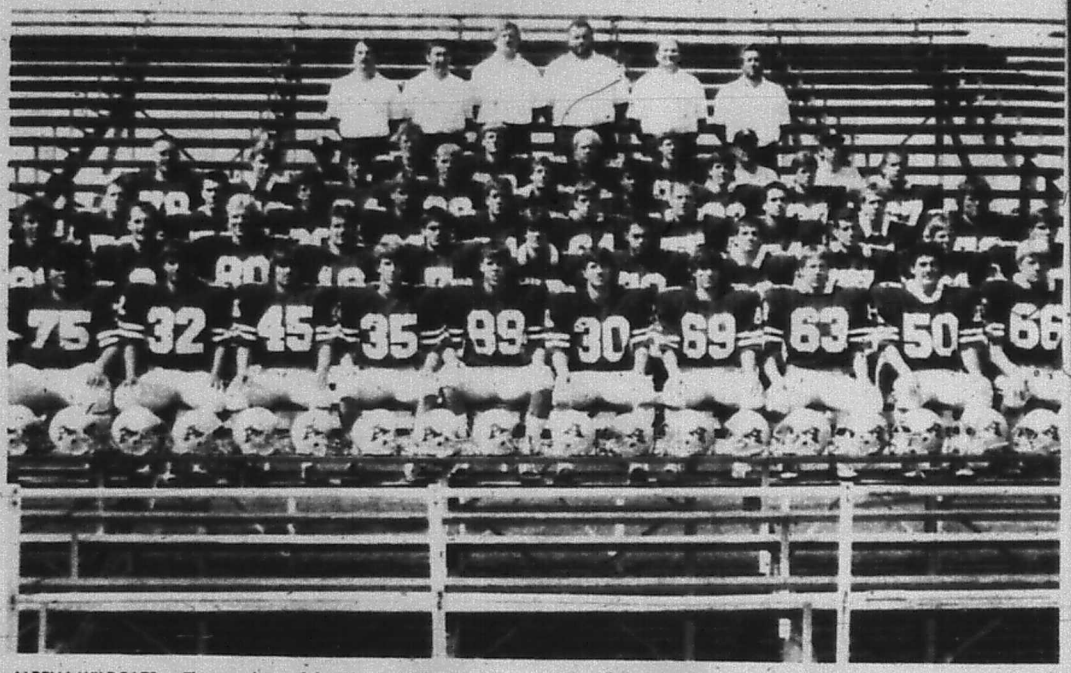


ALPENA WILDCATS — The members of the Alpena High School varsity football team for 1988 include: (front row, from left) Dennis Pahlkotter, Brock Johnson, Brad Blaski, Brent Barrow, Eric Kunath, Tom Sharp, Chad Repke, Pete Gamage, Bob Thomson and Doug Konieczny. (Second row): Eric Precord, Mike Precour, Jerremy Dunlap, Charlie Koss, Pat Ashley, Dennis Amlotte, Gary Stevens, Mike O'Brien, Brad Thomson, Toby Soltysiak and Clark Daoust. (Third row): Tim A. Standen, Chris Burns, Todd Pagels, Mike Kemnitz, Steve Zann, Tim Kieliszewski, Mark Graef, Brad McConnell, Jeff Truman and Travis Niedbala. (Fourth row): Thomas Light, Jim Burns, Greg Diemond, Jeff Allen, Tim J. Standen, Stefan Wenzel, Scott Anderson, Doug Hinton and Bill Stevens. (Fourth row): Manager Paul Ritzler, Doug Fras, Brian LaCross, Bob Gibbons, Jason Lucas, manager Brian Bedford and student trainer John Becker. (Fifth row): Assistant coaches Scott MacKenzie, Jim Johnson, Ralph Stepaniak and Ron Kraft, head coach Tom Atkinson and trainer Mike Cadarette.

Wildcats hopeful for winning campaign

By STEVE FARMER
News Sports Editor

For more than half a decade, the Alpena football team has wished to remain competitive after the infamous "Black Friday" and the loss of football for a year.

This season, the Wildcats are looking for more.

"We feel we have a legitimate chance to have a winning record," Alpena head coach Tom Atkinson said. "The main thing is we can-t get down if we have a bad game. We have to take each game one at a time."

Case in point is the Wildcats' 49-6 loss at Saginaw Arthur Hill Friday night. Alpena lost to Arthur Hill — a Class A state playoff team last season — by a similar score (43-14) last season.

Last year the Wildcats came off the setback by thumping Gaylord 55-7. They hope for similar results against Gaylord in their home opener Friday 7:30 p.m. at Wildcat Stadium.

Last season, the Wildcats posted a 3-6 record, their best in some time. The 1988 Wildcats are similar but also have their differences.

Alpena appears to be stronger this season at the skilled positions and possesses more team speed. Atkinson said this may result in a team which can cometimes come up with the big play, while it took other Wildcat teams long, sustained drives to score points.

Leading the skilled position players is returning starting quarterback Charlie Koss (5-foot-10, 170 pounds). Koss is seasoned and should be ready to guide the Wildcats again in 1988.

Koss is one of 23 returning lettermen and 12 returning starters in 1988. Brent Barrow (6-1, 170) is back after starting at swingback a year ago. Pat Ashley (5-11, 195) played well at halfback as a sophomore and has beefed up for his junior season.

In fact, the Wildcats as a unit have beefed up. Nine roster players weigh at least 200 pounds and the whole team has benefited from more time in the weightroom. When Atkinson arrived for the 1986 season, just three players could bench press more than 200 pounds. Now, 27 of 44 roster players can bench more than 200.

Also helpful has been the school's physical education development class and the fact nearly 30 players lift hard for most of the year. It is the year-round commitment in general that has made the Wildcats stronger, Atkinson said.

Also returning in the backfield is senior fullback Tom Sharp (6-0, 210), a starter in 1987.

Also expected to see action in the backfield are seniors Brock Johnson (5-8, 170), Dennis Amlotte (5-11, 165) and Clark Daoust (5-10, 190) at fullback. At the halfback position, seniors Toby Soltysiak (5-8, 162) and Brad Blaski (5-7, 155) should get playing time along with juniors Greg Diemond (5-9, 155) and Jeff Allen (5-11, 165).

Lending depth in the backfield are juniors Doug Hinton (5-8, 145), Jeff Truman (5-11, 150) and Scott Anderson (5-10, 145). The backup quarterback is junior Todd Pagels (5-11, 165).

The offensive line features one returning starter, senior guard Pete Gamage (6-0, 184) on the left side. The other guard is senior Bob Thomson (6-0, 195), who is a returning defensive starter. Senior Mike O'Brien is the projected starter at center. The tackles are senior Doug Konieczny (6-5, 205) on the right side and junior Brad McConnell (6-0, 195).

Also expected to see a lot of action on the offensive line are juniors Tim Kieliszewski (5-9, 172) and Mark Graef (5-11, 188) and seniors Brad Thomson (6-0, 170) and Gary Stevens (6-1, 175).

The offensive ends are returning lettermen Eric Kunath, a 6-3, 194-pound senior, and junior Jerremy Dunlap (6-4, 200). Dunlap set Alpena's season and game reception records as a sophomore. Also expected to compete for playing time are

(Continued to page 3C)

1988 SCHEDULE

6	Saginaw Arthur Hill	49
Fri., Sept. 9	GAYLORD	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 16	at Flint Southwestern	5:00 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 23	BAWATING COLLEGIATE	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 30	at Escanaba	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 7	YPSILANTI	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 14	TRAVERSE CITY	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 21	at Oscoda	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 28	MARQUETTE	7:30 p.m.

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS

AHS attempts to rise above .500 mark

(Continued from page 2C)

juniors Steve Zann (6-0, 160) and Brian LaCross (5-10, 155) and senior Mike Kemnitz (6-1, 175). Lending depth are senior Eric Precord (6-1, 175) and juniors Jason Lucas (5-11, 160) and Bob Gibbons (6-4, 207).

Competition on defense seems strongest at defensive back, where six players compete for four starting spots. Just two of the players — Barrow (cornerback) and Chad Repke (5-11, 172) (safety) are seniors. The other cornerbacks are juniors Allen and Diemond and the other safeties are juniors Anderson and Pagels. Also lending depth are Hinton, Wenzel, Precord and junior Tim J. Standen (5-8, 150).

The inside linebackers are Johnson and Bob Thomson with Kieliszewski, Dunlap and Zann also seeing action.

The defensive end spot has plenty of depth. Sharp and Kunath are the starters with Konieczny, Kemnitz, Amlotte, Gibbons and juniors Chris Burns (5-10, 170) and Jim Burns (5-10, 162) also possibly playing.

On the defensive line, Graef, Blaski and Gamage are the expected starters. The line also is deep with Brad Thomson, senior Dennis Pahlkotter (5-10, 275), McConnell, Stevens, O'Brien, junior Tom Light (6-4, 230), Daoust, junior Doug Fras (5-10, 180), junior Travis Niedbala (5-10, 255), senior Tim A. Standen (5-9, 172) and junior Bill Stevens (6-0, 195) possibly playing.

The specialists are Kunath at punter, Ashley doing the placekicking and Dunlap doing the long snapping.

Atkinson said the 1987 Wildcats had a good attitude and could have done better if not for a rigorous schedule.

Atkinson also said the 1988 is full of good kids. But the 1988 group also is full of players who have tasted victory. The junior class is full of players who have competed and won in the junior high level program.

"We finally have kids with an attitude of going into a game expecting to win instead of just wanting to win," Atkinson said.

Football at a younger age helps in the long run, according to Atkinson.

"We see a marked improvement of the kids who have played over the ones who haven't," he said. "It definitely gives them an impetus for starting their freshman year ahead."

How the Wildcats fare may once again hinge on the schedule, which again will be tough, though not as difficult as 1987.

Atkinson said the Wildcats likely would have a winning record each year if they played the schedules of many of the Class A schools in the state.

But because it is an independent, Alpena plays other independents in the state, some from Classes B and C, but nearly all difficult opponents.

"We want to play a schedule that is representative with our part of the state at a level we can compete at successfully," said Atkinson, who noted the Wildcat schedule should consist of natural rivals and teams with which Alpena has a good relationship.

Atkinson said recently he believed his team should be ahead more defensively, but that he thinks it will come around. He also said the offense is where it should be at this point.

And with a 'W' under their belts, the Wildcats may be on their way to a winning season."

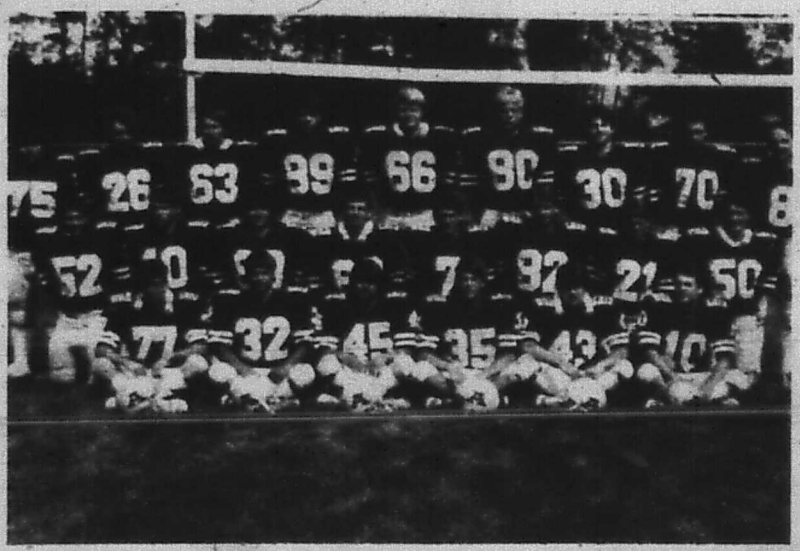
Alpena High School

Head Coach: Tom Atkinson (3rd season) — **1987 Record:** 3-6-0
Nickname: Wildcats — **Colors:** Green and White
League: Independent — **AD:** Bill DesChamps

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
7	Pat Ashley ★	5-11	195	Jr.
8	Mike Precour ★	5-10	178	Sr.
10	Charlie Koss ★	5-10	170	Sr.
20	Todd Pagels	5-11	165	Jr.
21	Toby Soltysiak ★	5-8	162	Sr.
22	Doug Hinton	5-8	145	Jr.
23	Scott Anderson	5-10	145	Jr.
24	Greg Diemond	5-9	155	Jr.
26	Eric Precord ★	6-1	175	Sr.
27	Tim J. Standen	5-8	150	Jr.
30	Tom Sharp ★	6-0	210	Sr.
31	Jeff Truman	5-11	150	Jr.
32	Brock Johnson ★	5-8	170	Sr.
35	Brent Barrow ★	6-1	165	Sr.
36	Jeff Allen	5-11	165	Jr.
40	Clark Daoust ★	5-10	190	Sr.
41	Stefan Wenzel	5-7	145	Jr.
43	Dennis Amlotte ★	5-11	165	Sr.
45	Brad Blaski ★	5-7	155	Sr.
50	Bob Thomson ★	6-0	202	Sr.
52	Tim A. Standen ★	5-9	172	Sr.
54	Brad McConnell	6-0	195	Jr.
55	Mark Graef	5-11	188	Jr.
60	Doug Fras	5-10	180	Jr.
63	Pete Gamage ★	6-0	184	Sr.
64	Tim Kieliszewski	5-9	172	Jr.
66	Doug Konieczny ★	6-5	205	Sr.
67	Bill Stevens	6-0	195	Jr.
68	Mike O'Brien ★	5-11	203	Sr.
69	Chad Repke ★	5-11	172	Sr.
70	Gary Stevens ★	6-1	175	Sr.
72	Jim Burns	5-10	162	Jr.
73	Travis Niedbala	5-10	255	Jr.
75	Dennis Pahlkotter ★	5-10	275	Sr.
77	Brad Thomson ★	6-0	170	Sr.
78	Tom Light	6-4	230	Jr.
79	Chris Burns	5-10	218	Jr.
80	Jerremy Dunlap ★	6-4	200	Jr.
82	Mike Kemnitz ★	6-1	175	Sr.
83	Brian LaCross	5-10	155	Jr.
84	Steve Zann	6-0	160	Jr.
86	Jason Lucas	5-11	160	Jr.
87	Bob Gibbons	6-4	207	Jr.
89	Eric Kunath ★	6-3	194	Sr.

★-returning letterman

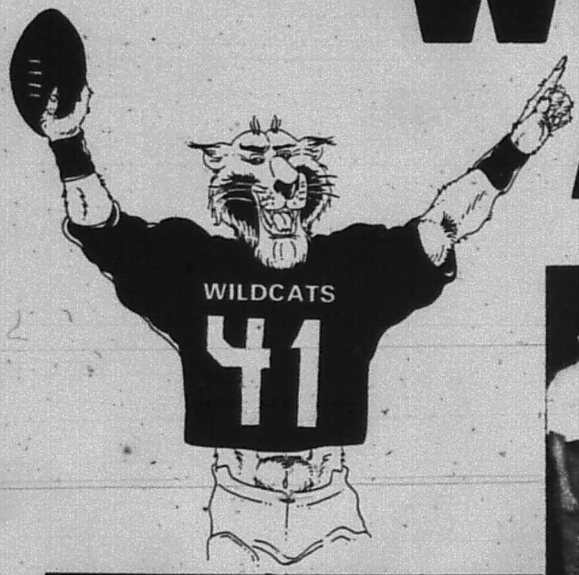
★ ★ ★



ALPENA LETTERMEN — Returning lettermen for the Alpena football team this season include: (front row, from left) Brad Thomson, Brock Johnson, Brad Blaski, Brent Barrow, Dennis Amlotte and Charlie Koss. (Second row): Tim A. Standen, Clark Daoust, Chad Repke, Mike O'Brien, Pat Ashley, Mike Kemnitz, Toby Soltysiak and Bob Thomson. (Third row): Dennis Pahlkotter, Eric Precord, Pete Gamage, Eric Kunath, Doug Konieczny, Jerremy Dunlap, Tom Sharp, Gary Stevens and Mike Precour.

WILDCATS

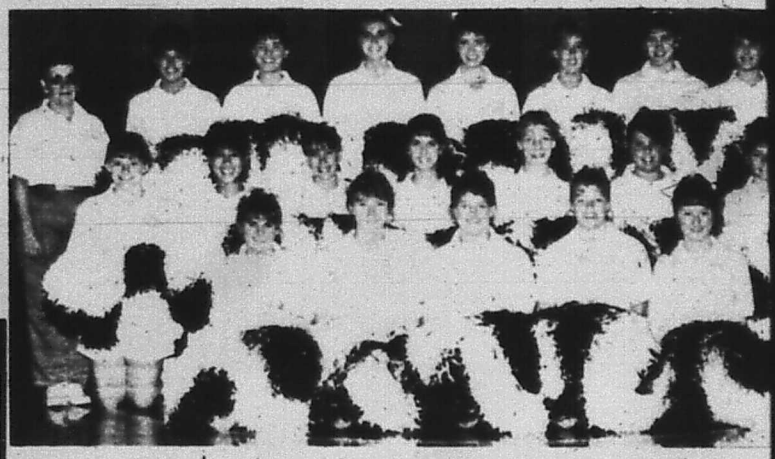
"WILDCAT"



SEASON HOME OPENER

ALPENA "WILDCATS" VS

AT WILDCAT



Front Left to Right: Lisa Jarmuzewski, Heather Schlegel, Paula Wimberley, Jeanine Kendjorski, Kris Cadarette

2nd Row Left to Right: Coach Sharon Wood, Amy Bouchard, Missy Smith, Traci Collins, Becky Dragiewicz, Theresa Wojcicki, Jenny Mimick, Lori Pahlkotter

3rd Row Left to Right: Angie Ableidinger, Megan Hays, Annette Roznowski, Becky Schultz, Rachelle Rickle, Amy Precour, Tricia Meldrum
Not Pictured: Beckie Stevens, Cora Gohlke

'88 "WILDCATS" GRID SCHEDULE

DATE	Opponent	Won or Lost	SCORE Alpena	Opp.
Sept. 2	Saginaw Arthur Hill*			
Sept. 9	Gaylord			
Sept. 16	Flint Southwestern*			
Sept. 23	Bawaiting Collegiate			
Sept. 30	Escanaba*			
Oct. 7	Ypsilanti			
Oct. 14	Traverse City			
Oct. 21	Oscoda*			
Oct. 28	Marquette			

*Away Games

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FOOTBALL

FRIDAY-SEPT. 9th, 7:30 P.M.

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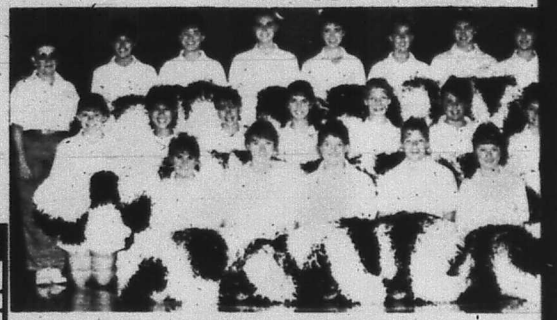
"WILDCAT"

SEASON HOME OPENER

ALPENA "WILDCATS" vs

AT WILDCAT



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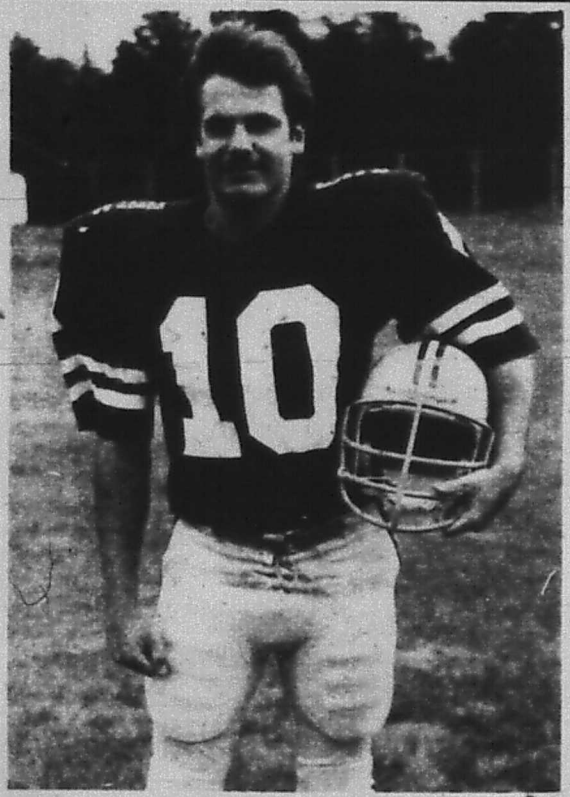
1988 Alpena Wildcats

1987 RESULTS

14	Saginaw Arthur Hill	43
57	Gaylord	7
8	Flint Southwestern	28
21	Cheboygan	55
7	Saginaw Nouvel	42
20	Jackson Lumen Christi	54
7	Traverse City	42
33	Oscoda	20
27	Sault Ste. Marie	0
194	(3-6-0)	291



STARTING QB — Charlie Koss returns for his senior season at quarterback for the Alpena varsity football team.

ALPENA COACHES — The Alpena coaching staff for the 1988 season includes: (front row, from left) assistant coach Scott MacKenzie, assistant coach Jim Johnson and trainer Mike Cadarette. (Second row, from left): Assistant coach Ron Kraft, head coach Tom Atkinson and assistant coach Ralph Stepaniak.

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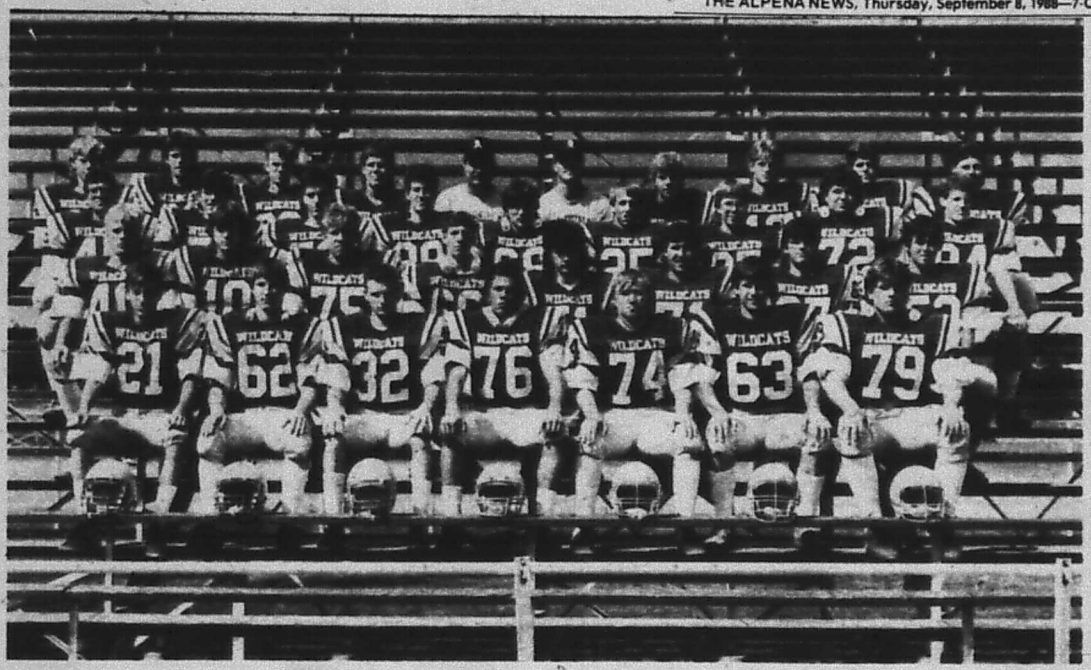

AHS JUNIOR VARSITY — Members of the Alpena High School junior varsity football team for 1988 include: (front row, from left) Pat Buck, Mike Zielaskowski, Mike Ryan, Glen Engstrom, Wayne Luoma, Kevin Sigafoos and Todd Kasubowski. (Second row): Jim Rober, Brian Zwolinski, Jamie Kuchnicki, Dale Teribery, Albert Pilarski, Todd Mousseau, Bill Hildreth and Kevin Burr. (Third row): Jeff Nowicki, Ed Jagst, Scott Greene, Bryan Thomson, Keith Griffin, Randy Wirgau, Shawn Utecht, Douglas Pilarski and James Horn. (Fourth row): Dan Ferguson, Frank Colfer, Matt Grochowski, Dennis Wimberley, coaches Bill Peterson and Bob Bennett, Mike Brown, Steve Eller, Todd Tucker and Scott Thompson. (Photo courtesy of Steve Speaks)

Spartans take aim at back-to-back Big Ten football crowns

EAST LANSING, Mich. (UPI) — The last time Michigan State won the Big Ten football championship outright in back-to-back seasons was in the 1965 and 1966 seasons, and now the Spartans are in a good position to do it again.

However, it might not be as easy as it was in the height of the Duffy Daugherty era when the Spartans had players like Bubba Smith, George Webster and Gene Washington.

Eight defensive and seven offensive starters return from last year's conference champion and Rose Bowl victor — 20-17 over Southern Cal. The Spartans last year posted their best Big Ten record, 7-0-1, and best overall mark, 9-2-1, since 1966.

Defense was the key to Michigan State's success in 1987, and the same should be true this season. The Spartans led the conference in defense and were No. 2 in the nation overall — allowing only 225.6 yards per game. Among the all-Big Ten returnees are Rose Bowl MVP linebacker Percy Snow, defensive end Travis Davis and safety John Miller.

Michigan State Coach George Perles hints that this year's defense may be even better than last season's.

"I expect us to play good defense," Perles said. "In some respects, I think we could be a quicker team. If we play good defense and have a good kicking game, we should be in every game."

Offensively, Perles must find a replacement for All-America tailback Lorenzo White who is now a rookie in the Houston Oilers training camp. White accounted for 1,687 yards last year, including 1,572 rushing.

The apparent heir to White's position is junior Blake Ezor, who ran for 617 yards last season. Perles has also said that redshirt freshmen Corey Pryor and Scott Selzer will see action at tailback.

Senior Bobby McAllister returns at quarterback for the second consecutive season after completing 71 of 139 passes for 1,171 yards and 6 touchdowns last year. Perles feels McAllister showed be improved over last year.

"We think he's going to be a better quarterback this year," Perles said. "He's got a year of confidence and experience behind him. Last year he just needed to get the experience."

Senior split end Andre Rison will most likely be McAllister's No. 1 target. Rison should become Michigan State's all-time leader in receptions and reception yardage in the early portion of this year's schedule. He already has 112 catches for 2,036 yards.

The offensive line is strong, headed by all-Big Ten left tackle Tony Mandarich. The 6-foot-6, 303-pound Mandarich was embroiled in an eligibility dispute with the NCAA after he applied and then withdrew his application for this year's NFL Supplemental Draft. The NCAA finally ruled that Mandarich would be eligible for all Big Ten games.

Mandarich is being touted as a strong candidate for the 1988 Outland Trophy and is also being projected as a high first-round pick in next year's NFL Draft.

The only question mark on the team is punting. All-Big Ten punter Greg Montgomery graduated and the search has been on to find a replacement. Perles said redshirt freshman Josh Butland has apparently won the battle. Butland recorded punts of 71, 64 and 61 yards in high school.

"We've got people who can pick up the slack," Perles said. "They don't have to play as well as last year, but play a little better."

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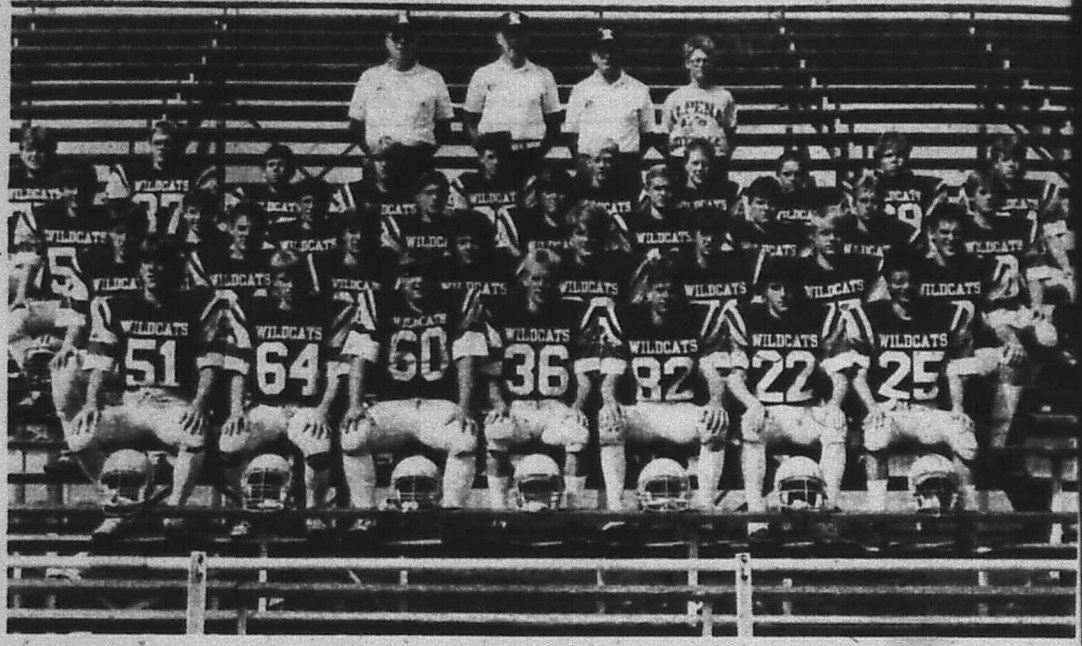

AHS FRESHMEN — Members of the Alpena High School freshmen football team for 1988 include: (front row, from left) Shane Garant, John Mills, Kevin Sorenson, Bryan Banycky, Chad Zann, Tom Bertrand and Gene Shieh. (Second row): Chad Kirby, Dave Benac, Ron Leslie, Tom Hauff, Ken Gilbertson, Chad Sauls, Ron Gunderman and Blaise Glennie. (Third row): Matt Stema, Dale Morgan-Jones, Craig Pelleran, Nate Jordan, Tony Linton, Jon Szymanski, Shad Heussner, Tim Mullaney and Travis Hilla. (Fourth row): Chris Burns, Mike Malenski, Cory Heath, Pat Pilarski, Dave Szejbach, J.B. Cook, Keith Moulds, Garrett Francis, Eric Erb and Jason Miller. (Fifth row): Assistant coach Don Urban, head coach Bob Kruger, assistant coach Jeff Ashley and manager and trainer Mark Ferguson. (Photo courtesy of Steve Speaks)

Michigan hopes to return to top of Big Ten during '88 year

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (UPI) — Michigan coach Bo Schembechler hopes a veteran offense, possibly with a new quarterback at the controls, and improved defense will return the Wolverines to the top of the Big Ten.

Michigan finished 8-4 last season, 5-3 in the Big Ten, with a squad that turned the ball over 31 times. The defense gave up 300 yards a game and time on the field was almost evenly divided between offense and defense.

"The strength of our team is in its offense," Schembechler says. "Our backs, line and receivers are all good. But we cannot turn the ball over. Defensively, we will not accept (allowing) the big play. We should be improved defensively."

Schembechler announced at the start of practice Michigan would have a new quarterback when it plays at Notre Dame on the night of Sept. 10. Last year's starter, Demetrius Brown, was not allowed on the team at the start of fall practice due to dangerously low grades.

"We didn't want to start practice with him and then find out he can't play," Schembechler explained. "I'd rather not have him in here at all."

But results of a summer course came in it was announced Brown would be eligible to play after all.

Schembechler already has a good idea who will start at quarterback and he acknowledged being aware of this problem way back in the spring, when Brown hardly played at all and the other four candidates shared playing time.

Brown was treading dangerous ground since he threw 16 interceptions last year, including seven against Michigan State.

Michael Taylor, like Brown an academic senior with junior eligibility, is "a gifted option and tremendously smart quarterback."

The other three were redshirted last year as freshmen: Eric Bush of Quincy, Ill., Wilbur Odom of San Antonio, Tex., and Ken Sollom of Canyon County, Calif. Bush, who made the traveling team last year, was called "a gifted athlete" while Sollom and Odom were declared "excellent passers" by Schembechler.

Whichever Schembechler installs as his No. 1 (and he won't disclose who until the Notre Dame game) "will not make a lot of mistakes. We have an offense that can carry the load. Our quarterback will not have to complete a lot of passes."

He will be protected by an offensive line that loses only All-American John Elliott. John Vitale "could end up being the best center we've ever had here" while Tom Dohring replaces Elliott at the strong tackle position. Mike Husar returns at quick tackle, with the trio of Dave Chester, Michael Dames and Dean Dingman sharing guard.

Schembechler plans to replace Jamie Morris with three tailbacks: Tony Boles, Tracy Williams and Allen Jefferson, Jarrod Bunch returns at fullback along with Leroy Hoard, who may play tailback also.

Derrick Walker and Jeff Brown "are excellent, excellent tight ends. You can't go anywhere in the country and get two better tight ends." Both can block and catch passes.

John Kolesar, Greg McMurtry and Chris Calloway will play the two receiver positions, where the Wolverines felt deep enough to switch Tripp Welborne to free safety.

Michigan will use Mike Gillette as both its placekicker and punter. He kicked last year and backed Monte Robbins up as the punter.

Mark Messner, son of former pro Max Messner who played with Detroit and Pittsburgh in the early 1960s, anchors the defensive line at tackle. John Herrmann, Warde Manuel and Brent White play the other defensive tackle spot with Mike Teeter and T. J. Osman at middle guard.

Michigan employs the 3-4 and depends a lot on its linebackers, a position that looks strong once again. J. J. Grant, Marc Spender and John Milligan lead the inside backers with Bobby Abrams and Brian Townsend on one side and Curtis Feaster, Tim Williams and Joe Holland on the other.

Schembechler has been trying for more speed in the secondary since Arizona State burned it in the Rose Bowl two seasons ago. The process is a year or two from completion.

Dave Arnold "should have a great year. If he does, he'll be one of the premier (wide) cornerbacks in the country." Schembechler has three candidates for short corner, including Wellborne, with Vada Murray slotted for free safety and another threesome at strong safety.

"We have a good team," Schembechler said. "I think we have a chance to win the title."

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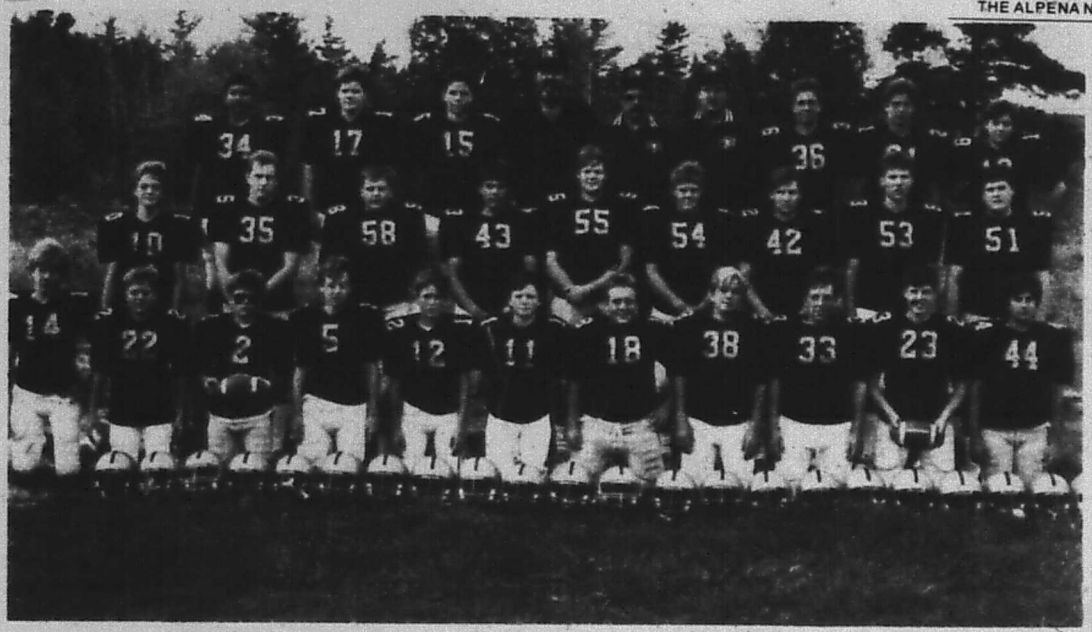

ALPENA RAIDERS — Members of the Alpena Raiders football team for 1988 include: (front row, from left) Bruz Copping, Jason Bedford, Jeff Alexander, Jeff Kendziorski, Tom Goodburne, Chad Konieczny, Jeff Amlotte, Brian Donakowski, Nick Hilla, Matt Chapman and Judd Kieliszewski. (Second row): Mike Yakes, Roy Headley, Jacob Johnson, J.P. Ritter, Brian Osborne, Jason Dunlap, Jason Szatkowski, Brock Kirschner and Kevin MacArthur. (Third row): Phillip Kuriakosh, Brian Papenhiem, Luke Brinkman, coaches Ted Worniak, Terry Kelly and Jay Libka, John O'Brien, Keith Antkowiak and Rick Stach. Missing: coach Scott Matteson. (News photo)

Former U-M star Morris turns attention to NFL career with Redskins

CARLISLE, Pa. (UPI) — After more than two decades, Jamie Morris is finally comfortable following the footsteps of big brother Joe.

The trek took the pair through scholastic football in Massachusetts, big time collegiate football (Joe at Syracuse and Jamie at Michigan) and into the National Football League (Joe with the New York Giants and Jamie a rookie with the Washington Redskins).

"Joe's always paved the way for me — from Pop Warner (little league football) to junior high to high school to college and into the NFL. He's always showed me how to get to where I have to get," said Jamie Morris, who at 23 is 4 ½ years younger than his brother.

The Super Bowl champion Redskins picked Jamie Morris in the fourth round of April's NFL draft, hoping he continues down Joe Morris' path to NFL stardom. Joe Morris, who turns 28 in September, is a two-time Pro Bowl running back with the Giants, helping New York to a victory in Super Bowl XXI, while setting a Giants club record with 1,516 yards during the 1986 season.

In four years at Michigan, Jamie Morris became the first Wolverine player to rush for 1,000 yards in three seasons and ended his college career as the school's all-time leading rusher (4,393 yards). Joe had earlier become the all-time leading rusher at Syracuse, eclipsing stars such as Jim Brown and Larry Czonka.

Morris has caught the eye of Coach Joe Gibbs.

"He's a tough, compact guy and an aggressive runner," Gibbs said.

Gibbs says Morris' experience in Coach Bo Schembechler's Michigan program could help his chances in the NFL.

"It doesn't matter as much with some guys, but I definitely think if you've been in that type of program there's advantages. You've played before a large crowd and you've had someone like Bo kick you in the rear end a few times. You're not going to panic under fire," Gibbs said.

Both brothers have had to deal with the same obstacle throughout their respective athletic careers — their size. Both are 5-foot-7.

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NFL 1988

1988 NFL SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES LOCAL

FIRST WEEK
Sunday, September 4 (NBC-TV doubleheader)
Atlanta at Detroit 1:00
Cleveland at Kansas City 3:00
Dallas at Pittsburgh 1:00
Houston at Indianapolis 3:00
Los Angeles Rams at Green Bay 12:00
Miami at Chicago 12:00
Minnesota at Buffalo 1:00
New York Jets at New England 4:00
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay 1:00
Phoenix at Cincinnati 1:00
San Diego at Los Angeles Raiders 1:00
San Francisco at New Orleans 12:00
Seattle at Denver 2:00
Monday, September 5
Washington at New York Giants (ABC) 9:00

SECOND WEEK
Sunday, September 11 (NBC-TV doubleheader)
Chicago at Indianapolis 12:00
Cincinnati at Philadelphia 4:00
Detroit at Los Angeles Rams 1:00
Kansas City at Seattle 1:00
Los Angeles Raiders at Houston 3:00
Miami at Buffalo 1:00
New England at Minnesota 3:00
New Orleans at Atlanta 1:00
New York Jets at Cleveland 4:00
Pittsburgh at Washington 1:00
San Diego at Denver 2:00
San Francisco at New York Giants 1:00
Tampa Bay at Green Bay 12:00
Monday, September 12
Dallas at Phoenix (ABC) 6:00

THIRD WEEK
Sunday, September 18 (CBS-TV doubleheader)
Atlanta at San Francisco 1:00
Buffalo at New England 1:00
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh 1:00
Denver at Kansas City 12:00
Green Bay at Miami 1:00
Houston at New York Jets 1:00
Los Angeles Rams at Los Angeles Raiders 1:00
Minnesota at Chicago 12:00
New Orleans at Detroit 1:00
New York Giants at Dallas 3:00
Philadelphia at Washington 1:00
Phoenix at Tampa Bay 1:00
Seattle at San Diego 1:00
Monday, September 19
Indianapolis at Cleveland (ABC) 8:00

FOURTH WEEK
Sunday, September 25 (CBS-TV doubleheader)
Atlanta at Dallas 12:00
Chicago at Green Bay 12:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland 1:00
Los Angeles Rams at New York Giants 4:00
Miami at Indianapolis 12:00
New England at Houston 12:00
New York Jets at Detroit 1:00
Philadelphia at Minnesota 12:00
Pittsburgh at Buffalo 1:00
San Diego at Kansas City 3:00
San Francisco at Seattle 1:00
Tampa Bay at New Orleans 12:00
Washington at Phoenix 1:00
Monday, September 26
Los Angeles Raiders at Denver (ABC) 6:00

FIFTH WEEK
Sunday, October 2 (CBS-TV doubleheader)
Buffalo at Chicago 12:00
Cincinnati at Los Angeles Raiders 1:00
Cleveland at Pittsburgh 1:00
Denver at San Diego 1:00
Detroit at San Francisco 1:00
Green Bay at Tampa Bay 1:00
Houston at Philadelphia 1:00
Indianapolis at New England 1:00
Kansas City at New York Jets 4:00
Minnesota at Miami 4:00
New York Giants at Washington 1:00
Phoenix at Los Angeles Rams 1:00
Seattle at Atlanta 1:00
Monday, October 3
Dallas at New Orleans (ABC) 6:00

SIXTH WEEK
Sunday, October 9 (NBC-TV doubleheader)
Chicago at Detroit 1:00
Denver at San Francisco 1:00
Indianapolis at Buffalo 1:00
Kansas City at Houston 12:00
Los Angeles Rams at Atlanta 1:00
Miami at Los Angeles Raiders 1:00
New England vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee 12:00
New Orleans at San Diego 1:00
New York Jets at Cincinnati 1:00
Pittsburgh at Phoenix 1:00
Seattle at Cleveland 1:00
Tampa Bay at Minnesota 12:00
Washington at Dallas 12:00
Monday, October 10
New York Giants at Philadelphia (ABC) 9:00

SEVENTH WEEK
Sunday, October 16 (CBS-TV doubleheader)
Atlanta at Denver 2:00
Cincinnati at New England 1:00
Dallas at Chicago 12:00
Detroit at New York Giants 1:00
Green Bay at Minnesota 12:00
Houston at Pittsburgh 1:00
Los Angeles Raiders at Kansas City 12:00
New Orleans at Seattle 1:00
Philadelphia at Cleveland 1:00
Phoenix at Washington 1:00
San Diego at Miami 1:00
San Francisco at Los Angeles Rams 1:00
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis 12:00
Monday, October 17
Buffalo at New York Jets (ABC) 9:00

EIGHTH WEEK
Sunday, October 23 (NBC-TV doubleheader)
Cleveland at Phoenix 1:00
Dallas at Philadelphia 1:00
Denver at Pittsburgh 1:00
Detroit at Kansas City 12:00
Houston at Cincinnati 1:00
Indianapolis at San Diego 1:00
Los Angeles Raiders at New Orleans 12:00
Minnesota at Tampa Bay 1:00
New England at Buffalo 1:00
New York Giants at Atlanta 1:00
New York Jets at Miami 4:00
Seattle at Los Angeles Rams 1:00
Washington vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee 12:00
Monday, October 24
San Francisco at Chicago (ABC) 8:00

NINTH WEEK
Sunday, October 30 (CBS-TV doubleheader)
Atlanta at Philadelphia 1:00
Chicago at New England 1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland 1:00
Green Bay at Buffalo 1:00
Kansas City at Los Angeles Raiders 1:00
Los Angeles Rams at New Orleans 12:00
Miami at Tampa Bay 1:00
Minnesota at San Francisco 1:00
New York Giants at Detroit 4:00
Phoenix at Dallas 12:00
Pittsburgh at New York Jets 1:00
San Diego at Seattle 1:00
Sunday Night
Washington at Houston (ESPN) 7:00
Monday, October 31
Denver at Indianapolis (ABC) 9:00

TENTH WEEK
Sunday, November 6 (CBS-TV doubleheader)
Buffalo at Seattle 1:00
Dallas at New York Giants 1:00
Detroit at Minnesota 1:00
Green Bay at Atlanta 1:00
Kansas City at Denver 2:00
Los Angeles Rams at Philadelphia 1:00
Miami at New England 1:00
New Orleans at Washington 4:00
New York Jets at Indianapolis 4:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati 1:00
San Francisco at Phoenix 2:00
Tampa Bay at Chicago 12:00
Sunday Night
Los Angeles Raiders at San Diego (ESPN) 9:00
Monday, November 7
Cleveland at Houston (ABC) 8:00

ELEVENTH WEEK
Sunday, November 13 (NBC-TV doubleheader)
Chicago at Washington 1:00
Cincinnati at Kansas City 12:00
Cleveland at Denver 2:00
Houston at Seattle 1:00
Indianapolis at Green Bay 12:00
Los Angeles Raiders at San Francisco 1:00
New England at New York Jets 1:00
New Orleans at Los Angeles Rams 1:00
New York Giants at Phoenix 2:00
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh 1:00
San Diego at Atlanta 1:00
Tampa Bay at Detroit 1:00
Sunday Night
Minnesota at Dallas (ESPN) 7:00
Monday, November 14
Buffalo at Miami (ABC) 9:00

TWELFTH WEEK
Sunday, November 20 (NBC-TV doubleheader)
Atlanta at Los Angeles Raiders 1:00
Chicago at Tampa Bay 1:00
Cincinnati at Dallas 12:00
Denver at New Orleans 12:00
Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee 12:00
Indianapolis at Minnesota 12:00
New York Jets at Buffalo
Philadelphia at New York Giants
Phoenix at Houston
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
San Diego at Los Angeles Rams
Seattle at Kansas City
Sunday Night
New England at Miami (ESPN)
Monday, November 21
Washington at San Francisco (ABC)

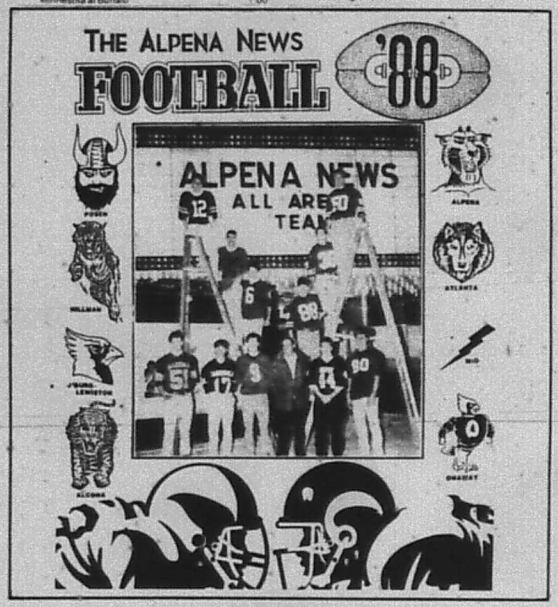
THIRTEENTH WEEK
Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving Day)
Houston at Dallas (NBC)
Minnesota at Detroit (CBS)
Sunday, November 27 (CBS-TV doubleheader)
Buffalo at Cincinnati
Cleveland at Washington
Green Bay at Chicago
Kansas City at Pittsburgh
Los Angeles Rams at Denver
Miami at New York Jets
New England at Indianapolis
Phoenix at Philadelphia
San Francisco at San Diego
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Sunday Night
New York Giants at New Orleans (ESPN)
Monday, November 28
Los Angeles Raiders at Seattle (ABC)

FOURTEENTH WEEK
Sunday, December 4 (NBC-TV doubleheader)
Buffalo at Tampa Bay
Dallas at Cleveland
Denver at Los Angeles Raiders
Green Bay at Detroit
Indianapolis at Miami
New Orleans at Minnesota
New York Jets at Kansas City
Phoenix at New York Giants
San Diego at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Atlanta
Seattle at New England
Washington at Philadelphia
Sunday Night
Pittsburgh at Houston (ESPN)
Monday, December 5
Chicago at Los Angeles Rams (ABC)

FIFTEENTH WEEK
Saturday, December 10
Indianapolis at New York Jets (NBC)
Philadelphia at Phoenix (CBS)
Sunday, December 11 (CBS-TV doubleheader)
Atlanta at Los Angeles Rams
Cincinnati at Houston
Dallas at Washington
Detroit at Chicago
Kansas City at New York Giants
Los Angeles Raiders at Buffalo
Minnesota at Green Bay
New Orleans at San Francisco
Pittsburgh at San Diego
Tampa Bay at New England
Sunday Night
Denver at Seattle (ESPN)
Monday, December 12
Cleveland at Miami (ABC)

SIXTEENTH WEEK
Saturday, December 17
New England at Denver (NBC)
Washington at Cincinnati (CBS)
Sunday, December 18 (NBC-TV doubleheader)
Atlanta at New Orleans
Buffalo at Indianapolis
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at Phoenix
Houston at Cleveland
Kansas City at San Diego
Miami at Pittsburgh
New York Giants at New York Jets
Philadelphia at Dallas
Seattle at Los Angeles Raiders
Sunday Night
L.A. Rams at San Francisco (ESPN)
Monday, December 19
Chicago at Minnesota (ABC)

POSTSEASON
Saturday, December 24 AFC First Round Playoff Game (NBC)
Monday, December 26 NFC First Round Playoff Game (CBS)
Saturday, December 31 AFC-NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC and CBS)
Sunday, January 1 AFC-NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC and CBS)
Sunday, January 8 AFC-NFC Championship Games (NBC and CBS)
Sunday, January 22 Super Bowl XXIII at Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Florida (NBC)
Sunday, January 29 AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, Honolulu, Hawaii (ESPN)



About The Cover

On the cover of this year's football edition is the 1987 Alpena News All-Area football team. Pictured are: (front row, from left) Mike Campbell of Alcona, Tony Moll of Johannesburg-Lewiston, Bob Marlatt of Atlanta, coach Ivan Robbins of Onaway, Corey Kubacki of Onaway and Clarence Hincka of Posen. (Left ladder, from bottom to top): Jim Hopp of Atlanta, Jeff Jones of Hillman and Brent Muckle of Rogers City. (Right ladder from bottom to top): Brian Tippman, Steve Levren and Randy Nelson, all of Alpena. The players were chosen as the top 11 players in Northeast Michigan a year ago with Robbins being selected the top coach. Pictures for this year's edition were taken by News photographer Mark Parent with the exception of photos in Posen and Onaway.

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NFL 1988

Watch Giants rise to the top again

By George Robinson

The Washington Redskins are the defending Super Bowl champions. Another NFC East club, the New York Giants, won the big game the year before. And NFC teams have captured six of the last seven NFL titles.

Yet watch for the signs of weakening through age and injury of some of the NFC powerhouses of the '80s. This division is a good example.

The predicted order of finish for the NFC East in 1988: 1. New York Giants; 2. Philadelphia Eagles; 3. Washington Redskins; 4. Dallas Cowboys; 5. Phoenix Cardinals.

The New York Giants (6-9 in 1987; 6-6 in non-strike games) will face one of the weakest schedules in the NFL this year. They play the Detroit Lions, the Atlanta Falcons and the Lions again in one three-week stretch.

More than that, the Giants, under coach Bill Parcells, looked hungry in pre-season action. The ferocious linebacking corps, led by Lawrence Taylor, has been letting its hitting do all the talking, although Carl Banks was a holdout. The secondary, a problem in the past, has jelled.

The only thing that could keep QB Phil Simms and Co. out of the playoffs is the injury-plagued offensive line. If it collapses again, the Giants — despite Joe Morris — will have no running game, just like last year.

Coach Buddy Ryan of the **Philadelphia Eagles** (7-8 in 1987; 7-5 in non-strike games) also needs more of a running game. "If you can't run the football," he admits, "it's tough to do anything." If QB Randall Cunningham is the Eagles' leading rusher again (he was last year), they are in trouble. They need bigger gains from Keith Byars and Anthony Toney.

On the other hand, DE Reggie White, the Minister of Defense (21 sacks), will no doubt welcome the arrival of rookie CBs Eric Everett and Eric Allen.

The Washington Redskins (11-4 in 1987; 8-4 in non-strike games) will have a difficult time protecting the Super Bowl crown. Coach Joe Gibbs knows how tough it will be for the 'Skins. "We're not good enough to remain complacent," he says. "We're not a dominating team."

The addition of Wilber Marshall, one of the best LBs in the league, will help. But the Dexter Manley suspension and the QB battle between Jay Schroeder and Doug Williams won't. Williams, the Super Bowl hero, is 33 and may be brittle. The running game is a question mark: Can Kelvin Bryant take NFL-sized hits? Is Timmy Smith for real?

The Dallas Cowboys (7-8 in 1987; 5-7 in non-strike games) and **Phoenix Cardinals** (7-8 in 1987; 6-6 in non-strike games) are mirror images of each other. The Cowboys need a quarterback. The Cardinals, who have migrated from St. Louis, have little but quarterback Neil Lomax.

Dallas has most of its linebackers laid up — Jeff Rohrer, Eugene Lockhart and Mike Hegman are all hurting. The Cardinals will probably end up with half of the team suffering from heat prostration by December.

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NFL 1988

Is it really getting un-Bear-able?

By George Robinson

Look for the beginnings of transition in the NFC Central. The Chicago Bears have to worry about the Minnesota Vikings, who may be heading for the top. The three doormats may rise up too — but not for a few years.

The predicted order of finish for the NFC Central in 1988: 1. Chicago Bears; 2. Minnesota Vikings; 3. Green Bay Packers; 4. Tampa Bay Buccaneers; 5. Detroit Lions.

Mike Ditka is 63-30 in six seasons as head coach of the Chicago Bears (11-4 in 1987; 9-3 in non-strike games). However, much of that success stems from players selected by Jim Finks and Jerry Vainisi, the last two GMs. Both are gone. So is LB Wilber Marshall. So is WR Willie Gault (although with Wendell Davis and Ron Morris around, he won't be missed). And so is RB Walter Payton. Neal Anderson will try to fill that gap, with help from rookie Brad Muster.

One guy Chicago cannot afford to lose again is QB Jim McMahon. Mike Tomczak is good enough to beat the Lions and Bucs and Packers; and Jim Harbaugh may be a great QB in a few years. But McMahon is the man now. The Bears are also facing a lot injuries on the offensive line. As it goes, so goes McMahon.

The Minnesota Vikings (8-7 in 1987; 8-4 in non-strike games) are breathing down Chicago's neck. But they have trouble getting into the end zone.

The Vikings averaged only 4.7 points per each drive within the 20-yard line. Clearly, the Vikes need an offense that can score in close. Rookie guards Randall McDaniel and Todd Kalis may help. The holdouts of center Kirk Lowdermilk and OT Gary Zimmerman won't.

A gamebreaker like playoff sensation WR Anthony Carter takes the heat off QBs Wade Wilson and Tommy Kramer. With the move of Chris Doleman to end and the emergence of tackle Keith Milliard, the defense is vastly improved.

The Green Bay Packers (5-9-1 in 1987; 3-8-1 in non-strike games) have a new boss. Lindy Infante is the first Packer coach since 1974 who is not a former Green Bay player. A brilliant offensive coordinator at Cleveland, he had seven QBs in camp, none of them Bernie Kosar.

Green Bay returns an underrated defensive line intact. The Pack will improve, but it won't threaten the leaders for a while. Green Bay should be grateful it's in a division where it plays both the Bucs and Lions twice.

Last year the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (4-11 in 1987; 2-10 in non-strike games) carried 18 rookies, including Vinnie Testaverde. This year they add OT Paul Gruber to protect Testaverde; and RB Lars Tate to take the heat off James Wilder. There are signs of improvement.

Not so in Detroit. The Detroit Lions (4-11 in 1987; 3-9 in non-strike games) are struggling. In successive years under coach Darryl Rogers the Lions' record has gone from 7-9 to 5-11 to 4-11. Last year marked the first time since 1960 that they won a game in December.

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NFL 1988

Top guns still belong to the '49ers

By George Robinson

The New Orleans Saints surprised a lot of people last year. The Los Angeles Rams will next year. For now, it's the San Francisco 49ers. Again.

The predicted order of finish in the NFC West in 1988: San Francisco 49ers; 2. New Orleans Saints; 3. Los Angeles Rams; 4. Atlanta Falcons.

The **San Francisco 49ers** (13-2 in 1987; 10-2 in non-strike games) own the NFL's longest consecutive playoff streak: five years. But the 'Niners have lost three straight playoff games since Super Bowl XIX.

Of course, they return the Joe Montana-Jerry Rice connection, the No. 1 passer and No. 1 receiver in the NFC. Rice, a consistent TD threat, was chosen by the World Almanac as the MVP of the NFL in 1987. And the 49ers have added Wes Chandler and Dokie Williams to the receiving corps.

But this is a franchise that is getting old. Roger Craig is 28. Ronnie Lott is 29. Joe Cribbs is 30 (and a part-timer). Montana is 32. And this is a franchise in search of a pass rush. Even coach Bill Walsh admits, "One area we do need to upgrade is the number of sacks we get."

Still, the 49ers can put points on the board in a hurry. Steve Young may be able to fill Montana's shoes soon, and LBs Keena Turner and Riki Ellison may be ready to return from injured reserve to help the defense. A lot of ifs.

So, the **New Orleans Saints** (12-3 in 1987; 10-2 in non-strike games) could actually go marching in. Give GM Jim Finks three years and a bankroll and he could turn hapless Columbia University into an NFL power.

His first and perhaps best move was hiring Jim Mora as head coach. Mora's cool head was an important part of the Saints' first-ever winning season.

Another key was the emergence of a devastating linebacking corps, led by Rickey Jackson and Sam M... New Orleans is also sparked con... tently by outstanding special te... play, particularly by PK Mo... Anderson.

The **Los Angeles Rams** (6-9 in 19... 5-7 in non-strike games) have a r... look. Head coach John Robinson ... offensive coordinator Ernie Zamp... are rebuilding around the pass.

QB Jim Everett is OK physica... but he needs a little more time... learn the new system. He will h... the weapons if Charles White, ... NFL's top rusher last season, and ... Gaston Green can stay healthy, ... new WRs Aaron Cox and Willie ... derson are ready for the pros.

The **Atlanta Falcons** (3-12 in 1987; ... 10 in non-strike games) are still ... sorriest club in the NFC. How mu... more pounding can RB Gerald Ri... take? Will NT Tony Casillas be ab... straighten himself out? Will the F... cons draft Troy Aikman, UCL... quarterback, with the No. 1 pick ... 1989?

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NFL 1988

It's true! These Bills are (finally) due

By George Robinson

The shift in power in the AFC East last year was downright biblical — the last became first. And there will be more changes this season.

The predicted order of finish in the AFC East in 1988: 1. Buffalo Bills 2. Indianapolis Colts 3. New England Patriots 4. Miami Dolphins 5. New York Jets.

The **Buffalo Bills** (7-8 in 1987; 6-6 in non-strike games) still need someone for QB Jim Kelly to throw the ball to. But Buffalo has transformed itself on defense.

The addition of LB Cornelius Bennett allowed coach Marv Levy to move Shane Conlan to inside linebacker, and the Bills suddenly became the most intimidating pass-rushers in the AFC.

If you don't believe that Bennett made the difference, consider this: In four non-strike games without him, the Bills allowed 27 or more points; after acquiring him, they gave up more than 17 points only twice in eight games.

Add Bruce Smith at defensive end and perennial threat Fred Smerlas at nose tackle, and you have a team that is going to put some QBs out of action. If Levy opens up the offense more to take advantage of Kelly's arm, watch out.

Suddenly, the **Indianapolis Colts** (9-6 in 1987; 7-5 in non-strike games) have galloped into the picture. Who would have thought that the Irsays would make a gambling trade like the Eric Dickerson deal and sign the running back to the big contract he wanted?

However, the rebuilding job is only half done. The Colts need to integrate Dickerson into their offense more. And they need to find a QB — Gary Hogeboom can't seem to stay healthy. Jack Trudeau may only need time. Chris Chandler is two years away. Until one of them takes the reins, the Colts will have to run with Dickerson and Albert Bentley.

How long can the **New England Patriots** (8-7 in 1987; 6-6 in non-strike games) rely on QB Steve Grogan and WR Stanley Morgan to power their offense?

On defense, a lot of New England's hopes rest on the back of LB Johnny Rembert. LB Steve Nelson is gone. He was a leader who made LB Andre Tippett and the Pats secondary more effective.

The **Miami Dolphins** (8-7 in 1987; 7-5 in non-strike games) have different problems. As Don Shula admits, "Defensively, I don't think we're close to where you have to be to be a playoff team." Which means that for every TD that the Dan Marino-to-the-Marks (Duper and Clayton) connection puts up, their own "D" will give one back.

The **New York Jets** (6-9 in 1987; 5-7 in non-strike games) decided on a full-scale rummage sale, getting rid of several veterans. What's left is total chaos. Coach Joe Walton will be fortunate to get through the season with a job.

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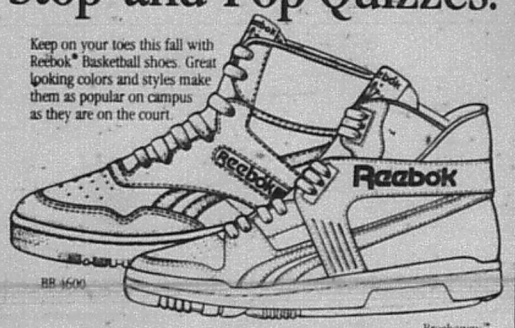

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NFL 1988

Where's the beef? Don't ask Denver

By George Robinson

Once the toughest division in the NFL, the AFC West has fallen on hard times. The light-footed Denver Broncos are still competitive, and the Seattle Seahawks may be. But the rest is history.

The predicted order of finish in the AFC West: 1. Denver Broncos; 2. Seattle Seahawks; 3. Los Angeles Raiders; 4. Kansas City Chiefs; 5. San Diego Chargers.

Dan Reeves can deny it all he likes, but the Denver Broncos (10-4-1 in 1987; 8-3-1 in non-strike games) — Super Bowl losers again — need to put some size in their lines. Adding RB Tony Dorsett won't hurt the Bronco attack. But they really need some offensive linemen big enough to grow tusks. Rookie tackle Gerald Perry (6-foot-6, 320 pounds) is a good start.

The same goes for Denver's defense. As good as they are — as smart as defensive coordinator Joe Collier is — the Broncos need more size up front. First-round pick Ted Gregory (6-1, 260) is not the answer, especially given his knee and leg problems.

Still, it's hard to pick against a team with a quarterback like John Elway.

Just ask coach Chuck Knox of the Seattle Seahawks (9-6 in 1987; 7-5 in non-strike games). His quarterback is the erratic Dave Krieg. Seattle has been trying to replace Krieg for what seems like a lifetime. And Knox may finally have found the answer in rookie QB Kelly Stouffer.

Seattle's receiving corps is solid, headed by Steve Largent, Raymond Butler and rookies Brian Blades and Tommy Kane. If RB Curt Warner's knees hold up, the Seahawks won't be in bad shape, offensively.

The defense looks devastating — on paper. But these guys turned into underachievers in 1987. LB Brian Bosworth has a lot to learn in order to play in the NFL. But The Boz will probably be too busy promoting his new book to do much studying. Losing Kenny Easley hurts a secondary that lacks depth.

At age 36, the Mike Shanahan of the Los Angeles Raiders (5-10 in 1987; 4-8 in non-strike games) is the youngest head coach in the NFL. With LA's QB headaches and an aging offensive line, he'll grow old in a hurry. Rusty Hilger and Steve Buerlien at quarterback? What is Al Davis thinking?

The Kansas City Chiefs (4-11 in 1987; 4-8 in non-strike games) are in the same boat. The Chiefs come off a disastrous first season under coach Frank Gansz. QBs Bill Kennedy and Steve DeBerg are battling for the starting job. They're both excellent *back-up* quarterbacks. At least K.C.'s receivers and secondary are still solid.

The San Diego Chargers (8-7 in 1987; 5-7 in non-strike games) could be the worst team in the AFC — with Mark Malone at QB, no drive blockers, no breakaway backs, no pass rush since DE Leslie O'Neal's knees went.

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AFC WEST

JOHANNESBURG
LEWISTON

CARDINALS

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1988 Johannesburg-Lewiston

Date	Game	Time	Score	Opponents
Sat. Sept. 3	Central Lake A	1:00		
Fri. Sept. 9	St. Mary's H	7:30		
Fri. Sept. 16	Mio H	7:30		
Fri. Sept. 23	Manton H	7:30		
Fri. Sept. 30	Onaway A	7:30		
Fri. Oct. 7	Hillman A	7:30		
Fri. oct. 14	Marion A	7:30		
Fri. Oct. 14	Atlanta A	7:30		
Fri. Oct. 28	Boyne City H	7:30		

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J'BURG-LEWISTON

JOHANNESBURG-LEWISTON CARDINALS — The members of the Johannesburg-Lewiston High School varsity football team for 1988 include: (front row, from left) Scott Pomarzynski, Bruce Davidson, Harvey Greenway, Chris Strachan, Rich Pawlowski, manager Ken Klein and manager Richie Sumampow. (Second row): Assistant coach Pat Kearney, Jeff Klein, Tom Rankin, Sam Shoff, Jaso Halpin, Abe Vinitski and head coach Fred Davis. (Third row): Alla Myers, Andrew Buttigieg, Bill Klein, Ted May, Tim Rinke, Chris Pa ffi and Kim Schram. Missing: Tony Moll.

Cardinals aim for another winning yea

By STEVE FARMER
News Sports Editor

Independence can have its advantages and disadvantages. Take, for example, the Johannesburg-Lewiston football team.

Joburg, under sixth-year head coach Fred Davis, is an independent and thus its schedule often dictates how it fares during the course of the season.

Last year the Cardinals jumped out to a 4-0 record, but finished the season 5-4 with the final three losses coming to Class D state playoff teams.

The 1988 Cardinals have a similar schedule but stack up different this year from last.

Joburg had just 17 players on its roster when school began but expected more with the start of school this week.

Though numbers are down, the Cardinals return one of the strongest backfields in Northeast Michigan.

Quarterback-running back Tony Moll (5-foot-11, 170 pounds) is back for his senior season. Moll was the area's leading rusher last season with 1,254 yards. He also threw for nearly 900 yards. Also returning is junior halfback Ted May (5-9, 160), who ran for more than 500 yards last season, and at fullback is returning junior Abe Vinitski (5-9, 175), who also had a successful season on last year's varsity.

"I think the three kids would start in most backfields in Northern Michigan," Davis said.

The question mark is on the offensive line. Two starters return, but there is little depth. Senior guard Rich Pawlowski (6-2, 185), a co-captain along with Moll, is back. The other returning starter is senior tackle Harvey Greenway (6-1, 200). At the other guard is junior Andy Buttigieg (6-0, 180). At the other tackle is junior Tom Rankin (5-8, 175). The center is returning senior letterwinner Chris Strachan (5-11, 175).

The Cardinals use two tight ends frequently. At the position are senior returning letterwinner Scott Pomarzynski (6-1, 165) and junior Chris Paffi (6-2, 185). At the flanker position is junior Bill Klein (5-8, 150), who has good hands and can run well.

Joburg does not appear to be deep defensively, though its personnel both on offense and defense is quality. The Cardinal defense was impressive enough to post a 27-0 shutout victory over rival Central Lake Saturday on the road.

Moll made some all-state teams at defensive back a year ago. In addition to his offensive statistics, he had s interceptions and ran ba two fumble recoveries f touchdowns. He also had tackles.

Davis said he likes to re Moll on defense when poss ble. Juniors Kim Schram (5- 150) and Jason Halpin (6- 150), a returning letterwi ner, also will play defensiv back as will senior Alla Myers (5-8, 150).

Pawlowski and Vinits make up the Cardin linebacking corps. On th defensive line are Greenwa and Rankin at the tackle pos tions and Buttegieg an senior Bruce Davidson (5-1 170) at the down position Paffi and Pomarzynski ar the ends.

Scheduling can play a bi part in the Cardinals' succes or it can hurt a record. In on recent season, Joburg playe four playoff teams in th same year along with Alcon which narrowly missed Class C playoff berth.

This year the Cardinal have picked up another set c Cardinals — an improve Onaway team. Also on th

(Continued to page 15C)

JoburgLewiston

Head Coach: Fred Davis (6th season)
Nickname: Cardinals
League: Independent

1987 Record: 5-4-0
Colors: Red and White
AD: Rick Guild

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
10	Tim Rinke	5-10	140	Jr.
17	Tony Moll ★	5-11	170	Sr.
27	Ted May ★	5-9	160	Jr.
30	Abe Vinitski ★	5-9	175	Jr.
32	Bill Klein ★	5-8	150	Jr.
38	Kim Schram	5-8	150	Jr.
40	Allan Myers	5-8	150	Sr.
50	Rich Pawlowski ★	6-2	185	Sr.
53	Bruce Davidson ★	5-11	170	Sr.
55	Sam Shoff ★	5-6	145	Sr.
58	Andrew Buttigieg	6-0	180	Jr.
61	Jeff Klein	5-10	180	Sr.
68	Tom Rankin	5-8	175	Jr.
70	Harvey Greenway ★	6-1	200	Sr.
78	Chris Strachan ★	5-11	175	Sr.
82	Scott Pomarzynski ★	6-1	165	Sr.
85	Chris Paffi	6-2	185	Jr.
88	Jason Halpin ★	6-1	150	Jr.

★-returning letterman

1988 SCHEDULE

27	Central Lake	0
Fri., Sept. 9	GAYLORD ST. MARY	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 16	MIO	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 23	MANTON	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 30	at Onaway	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 7	at Hillman	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 14	at Marion	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 21	at Atlanta	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 28	BOYNE CITY	7:30 p.m.

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS

CARDINALS

1987 RESULTS

19	Central Lake	0
21	Gaylord St. Mary	18
25	Mio	6
32	Manton	0
6	Alcona	32
20	Hillman	6
22	Marion	29
0	Atlanta	8
14	AuGres	50
159	(5-4-0)	149

Cardinal backs could key strong grid season

(Continued from page 14C)

schedule is another Class C team — Boyne City, which returns its entire offensive unit with the exception of one player.

On the schedule again is Marion, also a playoff team last year.

Davis said the year would be outstanding if Joburg could go 7-2 or even 6-3.

"I feel we have the kids to get there if we don't get hurt," Davis said.

Joburg helped by a high school coaching legend

By STEVE FARMER
News Sports Editor

The Johannesburg-Lewiston football team has enjoyed success under sixth-year head coach Fred Davis. But the program could not have planned for the benefits it is getting from a coach who fell into its laps.

Pat Kearney, a member of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's Hall of Fame, begins his second season helping with the Cardinal program.

Kearney coached at Ecorse High School for 28 years and compiled a lifetime 135-83 record in coaching stints at three different high schools.

Kearney, who retired three years ago, built a cottage near Vienna in 1978 because he liked the area. Kearney, 59, found he missed coaching after retiring.

"Coaching was the main thing in my life," Kearney said. "I like working with kids."

Kearney, who lives downstate most of the year, said he enjoys coaching now, especially working with a better-behaved and more coachable group than at Ecorse.

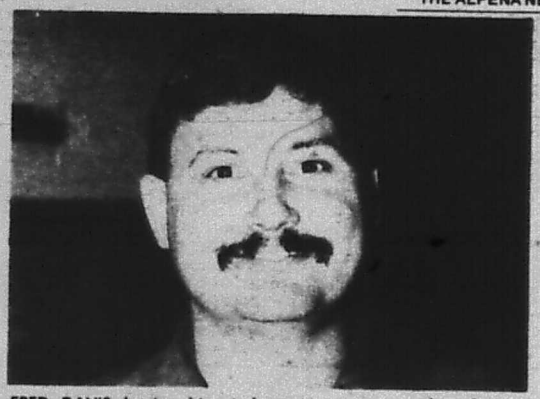
"I haven't had a bit of a problem with any of them," Kearney said. "If I had a situation like this I don't think I would have retired."

Helping out a Cardinal team with about 20 players also has allowed Kearney to work one-on-one with players more than he could at Ecorse. Coaching the Cardinals has meant less administrative work and more of what he loves — coaching.

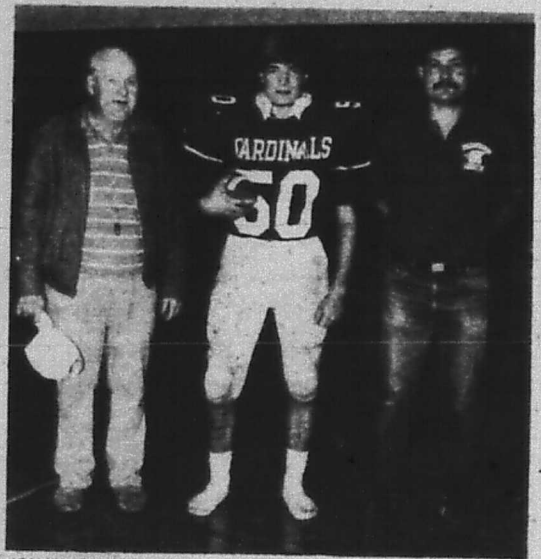
"The kids are much more responsive and they have instant respect," Kearney said.

Instant respect for a high school coach who commands it.

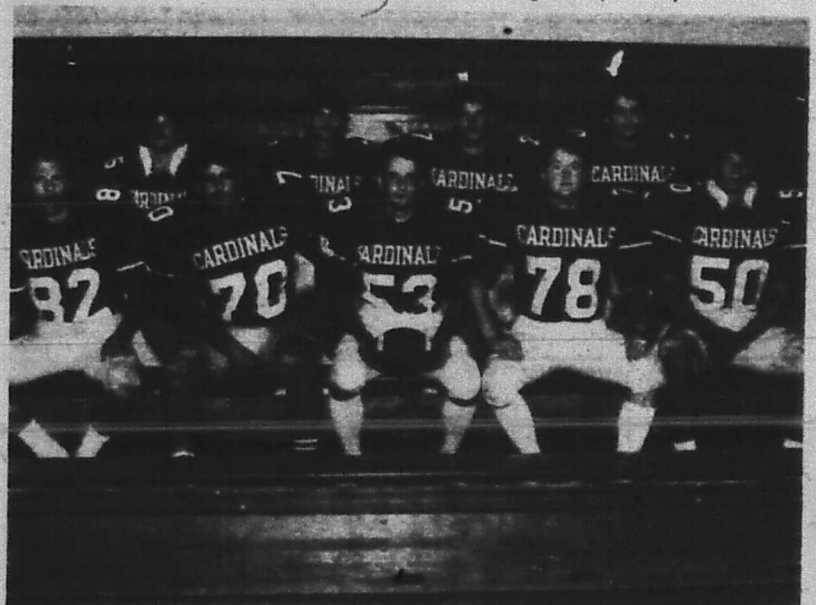
PAT KEARNEY is in his second season as an assistant to the Cardinal football program.



FRED DAVIS begins his sixth season as coach of the Johannesburg-Lewiston Cardinals.



JOHANNESBURG LEWISTON CAPTAINS — Assistant coach Pat Kearney (left) and head coach Fred Davis flank Cardinal co-captain Rich Pawlowski. Missing is co-captain Tony Moll.



JOHANNESBURG-LEWISTON LETTERMEN — Returning lettermen for the Johannesburg-Lewiston football team this season include: (front row, from left) Scott Pomarzynski, Harvey Greenway, Bruce Davidson, Chris Strachan and Rich Pawlowski. (Second row): Sam Shoff, Bill Klein, Ted May and Abe Vinitski. Missing: Tony Moll.

Indianapolis Colts

1987 record - 9-6, AFC East champions.

Head Coach - Ron Meyer. 5 years, 12-6. Overall NFL record — 30-21.

Strengths - Rushing game with RB Eric Dickerson, who was second in the NFL last year with 1,288 yards on 283 carries; LBs Duane Bickett, Cliff Odom and Barry Krauss provide experience and solid anchor for defense, which allowed fewest points in NFL last season.

Outlook - Should be in thick of wide open division race, but tougher schedule and several question marks will make repeating difficult.

Cleveland Browns

1987 record - 10-5, AFC Central champions.

Head coach - Marty Schottenheimer. 4 years, 36-24.

Strengths - QB Bernie Kosar led AFC in passing last year, and WRs Webster Slaughter and Brian Brennan and RB Earnest Byner sure-handed.

Outlook - Should have little opposition in winning fourth straight AFC Central, but must exhibit strong pass rush to win AFC Championship Game after losing there last two seasons.

put nsh0979 m. to nsd r s bc-fbn-capsules 2ndadd 8-19

Denver Broncos

1987 record — 10-4-1, AFC champions.

Head coach — Dan Reeves. 7 years, 70-41-1.

Strengths — Explosive offense directed by QB John Elway, 1987 AFC Offensive Player of the Year; WRs Ricky Nattiel, Vance Johnson and Mark Jackson give team three deep threats; All-Pro G Keith Bishop anchors solid offensive line.

Outlook — With Elway at controls, Broncos remain playoff-caliber team despite defensive woes. First five games, all against division opponents, will give early indication of team's chances.

New England Patriots

1987 record — 8-7.

Head coach — Raymond Berry. 4 years, 37-23.

Strengths — QB Steve Grogan is experienced and clever, and WRs Stanley Morgan, Irving Fryar and Cedric Jones have exceptional speed and ability; Patriots think rookie RB John Stephens could be a great one; depth at skill positions and one of best OLBs in footbll in Andre Tippett.

Outlook — Could finish at the top or the bottom of the AFC East. Injuries may be the determinant factor in the Patriots' season.

Houston Oilers

1987 record — 9-6, AFC wild card team.

Head coach — Jerry Glanville. 3 years, 15-20.

Strengths — Dangerous big-play offense with QB Warren Moon throwing to WRs Ernest Hill and Drew Hill; backfield of Mike Rozier and Alonzo Highsmith could be potent if Highsmith comes back strong after knee surgery; Pro Bowl S Keith Bostic, CBs Steve Brown and Patrick Allen lead defense.

Outlook — Expected to make run at Cleveland for AFC Central title but will probably have to settle for another wild card spot.

Seattle Seahawks

1987 record — 9-6, AFC wild card.

Head coach — Chuck Knox. 5 years, 48-31. Overall NFL record — 139-81-1.

Strengths — Running game is among NFL's best behind steady line and talent of TB Curt Warner and FB John L. Williams; passing attack, behind QB Dave Krieg, produced 31 TD passes in only 405 attempts; WR Steve Largent could hold most of NFL career receiving records by year's end; LBs Fredd Young, Brian Bosworth and Tony Woods lead a talented defense.

Outlook — If new defense, planned to take advantage of young, fast LBs, is a success, Seattle could win division.

Miami Dolphins

1987 record — 8-7.

Head coach — Don Shula. 18 Years, 198-88-2. Overall NFL record — 271-114-6.

Strengths — Passing game among the league's best with QB Dan Marino, WRs Mark Duper, Mark Clayton and James Pruitt, and RB Troy Stradford; coaching, with Shula the winningest active coach in NFL.

Outlook — The Dolphins are 16-15 the past two years, and it should be more of the same this year. If the Dolphins can avoid a disastrous start during a brutal early schedule, they could challenge for the AFC East.

Pittsburgh Steelers

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Record — 8-7.

Coach — Chuck Noll. 19 years, 163-114-1.

Strengths — Physical, reckless defense led by LBs Mike Merriweather and Bryan Hinkle; secondary strong with Dwayne Woodruff, Delton Hall, Rod Woodson and Cornell Gowdy; underrated offensive line helps running game; steady K Gary Anderson.

Outlook — Defense should keep Pittsburgh in the fight for a playoff spot, but it will take production at QB to make it.

San Diego Chargers

1987 record — 8-7.

Head coach — Al Saunders. 2 years, 11-12.

Strengths — Billy Ray Smith and Chip Banks head outstanding LB group, although Banks is unhappy with his contract and may sit out; TE Kellen Winslow has returned from knee injury to become top receiving threat again; P Ralf Mojsiejenko is among tops in league.

Outlook — Chargers' 1987 record was bolstered by 3-0 strike team; regulars lost final 6 games and will have trouble escaping AFC West cellar.

Buffalo Bills

1987 record — 7-8.

Head coach — Marv Levy. 2 years, 9-13. Overall NFL record — 40-55.

Strengths — Defense, with young LBs Shane Conlan and Cornelius Bennett and DE Bruce Smith, could bloom into one of NFL's best; QB Jim Kelly led offense with 19 TD's passes last season, with favorite targets WRs Chris Burkett and Andre Reed.

Outlook — Defense should keep Bills in a lot of games, and Kelly explosive at QB. Could make a run at AFC East top spot if running game jells to balance passing attack.

Cincinnati Bengals

1987 record — 4-11.

Head coach — Sam Wyche. 4 years, 29-34.

Strengths — Passing game: Wyche's specialty is thinking up complex passing schemes, and southpaw QB Boomer Esiason likes to throw deep and often; WRs Eddie Brown and Cris Collinsworth are quick and reliable; veteran offensive line is solid.

Outlook — Not good. Wyche knows he will be fired if he doesn't produce this year, and pressure on coaching staff could unsettle team.

Los Angeles Raiders

1987 record — 5-10.

Head coach — Mike Shanahan. 1st year as NFL head coach.

Strengths — With addition of Willie Gault and Tim Brown, receiving corps is explosive; Marcus Allen is HB until mid-season when Bo Jackson rejoins team; DL, anchored by Howie Long, could be dominating.

Outlook — Will go as far as QB and secondary can take them. Rumors persist that Al Davis will trade a big-name player for established QB.

New York Jets

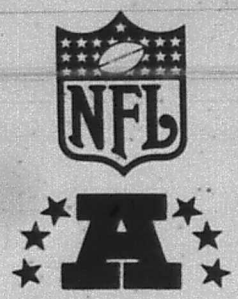
1987 record — 6-9.

Head coach — Joe Walton. 5 years, 42-40.

Strengths — Ppassing game, when given enough time by the offensive line, is potent; WRs Al Toon and Wesley Walker make double coverage difficult for defenses and give Q Ken O'Brien four sure hands.

Weaknesses — Offensive line, which allowed 66 sacks in 1987, has been completely revamped.

Outlook — Jets are rebuilding in too many key areas to expect to improve much on their last-place finish of last season.



Kansas City Chiefs

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

1987 Record — 4-11.

Head Coach — Frank Gansz. 1 year, 4-11.

Strengths — Secondary, anchored by S Deron Cherry, as good as any in the league; NT Bill Maas has been to last two Pro Bowls; WRs have glowed at times; K Nick Lowery amazingly dependable.

Outlook — Chiefs took a tumble after making playoffs in 1986, and the road back looks too long to cover in one year.

Washington Redskins

1987 record — 10-5, NFC East and Super Bowl champions.

Head coach — Joe Gibbbs. 7 years, 81-24. Overall NFL record — 81-24.

Strengths — Passing game is among NFL's most dangerous with big-play QB Doug Williams throwing to WRs Gary Clark, Art Monk and Rickey Sanders; veteran offensive line is solid; Pro Bowl OLB Wilber Marshall joins defense led by DEs Charles Mann and Dexter Manley.

Outlook — Should battle New York Giants for NFC East title and have a good shot at advancing to third straight conference title game.

Chicago Bears

1987 record — 11-4, NFC Central champions.

Head coach — Mike Ditka. 6 years, 65-30.

Strengths — DL and LBs. Ron Rivera replaces Wilbur Marshall at OLB and Bears not expected to drop much in talent there; DL with Steve McMichael, Dan Hampton, Richard Dent and Al Harris strong as long as Harris returns from injury; OL will be solid if Ts Jimbo Covert and Keith Van Horne return from injuries.

Outlook — Bears will struggle to win fifth consecutive NFC Central crown, especially if QB Jim McMahon can't stay healthy.

San Francisco 49ers

1987 record — 13-2, NFC West champions.

Head coach — Bill Walsh. 9 years, 89-57-1.

Strengths — QB, where Walsh has Steve Young pushing Joe Montana; WR Jerry Rice had 1 of best receiving seasons in NFL history in 1987; secondary of Ronnie Lott, Jeff Fuller, Tim McKyer and Don Griffin keys defense.

Outlook — Tough early schedule and emergence of New Orleans will make it tough for 49ers to repeat as division champs.

Dallas Cowboys

1987 record — 7-8.

Head coach — Tom Landry. 28 years, 267-165-6.

Strengths — Skill positions are top-notch with Herschel Walker at RB and potential rookie sensation Michael Irvin at WR; Offensive line, though young, seems to be fast improving.

Outlook — Dallas offense has chance to make large strides this year and could be one of the best in the league if QB Steve Pelluer develops. If Cowboys defense can put together enough good games, Dallas could surprisingly make a run at the playoffs as a wild card team.

Minnesota Vikings

1987 record — 8-7, NFC wild card team.

Head coach — Jerry Burns. 3 years, 17-14.

Strengths — Two veteran QBs, Tommy Kramer and Wade Wilson with Rich Gannon strong backup, throwing to WRs Anthony Carter, Leo Lewis and Hassan Jones. RB Darrin Nelson had 26 receptions for 129 yards and 131 carries for 642 yards on ground. Pro Bowl TE Steve Jordan had 35 receptions for 490 yards; veteran OL is solid.

Outlook — Might be ready to move past Bears in NFC Central.

New Orleans Saints

1987 record — 12-3, wild card team.

Head coach — Jim Mora. 2 years, 19-13.

Strengths — LBs Rickey Jackson, Vaughan Johnson, Sam Mills and Pat Swilling head an outstanding defense; forced 48 turnovers last season, with 6 players intercepting at least 3 passes; running game is among best in league, but top RB Rueben Mayes left camp in contract dispute.

Outlook — Coming off best year in franchise history, Saints should again challenge San Francisco for NFC West.

Phoenix Cardinals

1987 record — 7-8.

Head coach — Gene Stallings. 2 years, 11-19-1.

Strengths — Passing game is potent with Pro Bowl QB Neil Lomax throwing to J.T. Smith, who led NFL in receptions in 1987, speedy WR Roy Green and TE Robert Awalt, the NFC Rookie of the Year; depth acquired at LB with trade for Ricky Hunley and drafting of Ken Harvey.

Outlook — New home and sudden willingness to spend money should mean improvement for the Cardinals, but not enough to make the playoffs.

Green Bay Packers

1987 record — 5-9-1.

Head coach — Lindy Infante. 1st year as NFL head coach.

Strengths — RBs, with addition of No. 3 pick Keith Woodside to Brent Fullwood and Kenneth Davis; WRs, with No. 1 draft choice Sterling Sharpe adding to the threats of Phillip Epps, Walter Stanley and Frankie Neal; LB corps of Brian Noble, John Dorsey, Burnell Dent, John Anderson and the addition of No. 2 draft choice Shawn Patterson.

Outlook — Will have a chance to improve record but a .500 season is all Infante can expect his first season.

Los Angeles Rams

1987 record — 6-9.

Head coach — John Robinson. 5 years, 48-37.

Strengths — QB Jim Everett beginning second year under offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese and had impressive in pre-season; Charles White led NFL in rushing last year; Mike Lansford is one of league's most accurate kickers; secondary, led by CBs Johnny Gray and LeRoy Irvin, is solid.

Outlook — Rams looking to rebuild after slumping to third place and trading Eric Dickerson last year.

Philadelphia Eagles

1987 record — 7-8.

Head coach — Buddy Ryan. 2 years, 12-18-1. Overall NFL record — 12-18-1.

Strengths — QB Randall Cunningham is one of most versatile in NFL and accounted for 26 of team's 34 non-strike touchdowns last season; DE Reggie White is best pass rusher in game, with 21 sacks last season in 12 games; WR Mike Quick is 5-time Pro Bowler.

Outlook — Because of Cunningham's offensive talent, the team has a chance to make the playoffs for first time since 1981.

Detroit Lions

1987 record — 4-11.

Head coach — Darryl Rogers. 4 years, 16-31.

Strengths — OL keyed by Ts Lomas Brown and Harvey Salem; P Jim Arnold, K Eddie Murray LB Paul Butcher key strong special teams; LBs good on outside (Mike Cofer and Jimmy Williams) with ILB Dennis Gibson a 1987 rookie find.

Weaknesses — Secondary poor; QB Chuck Long needs to reverse .TD-interception ratio (11-20); WRs lack game-breaker, ability to run with ball if they catch it; failure of DE Reggie Rogers, top 1987 pick, hurt already poor pass rush.

Atlanta Falcons

1987 record — 3-12.

Head coach — Marion Campbell. 4 years, 9-31. Overall NFL record — 26-60-1.

Strengths — RB Gerald Riggs has rushed for 5,400 yards over past four seasons, providing consistent inside power although little break-away threat.

Outlook — Need big year from QB Chris Miller and improvement just about everywhere else to avoid another last place finish in NFC West. First winning season in six years appears out of reach.

New York Giants

1987 record — 6-9.

Head coach — Bill Parcells. Years and record with club — 5 years, 47-38-1.

Strengths — Defense is strong and deep, especially at LB. OLBs Lawrence Taylor and Carl Banks and ILB Harry Carson went to Pro Bowl last year. Passing game should be improved if QB Phil Simms stays healthy and young WRs develop. Kicking game, with P Sean Landeta and K Raul Allegre, is solid.

Outlook — Expected to rebound and contend for Super Bowl again. Should battle Washington for NFC East title.

Tampa Bay Bucs

1987 record — 4-11.

Head coach — Ray Perkins. 1 year, 4-11. Overall NFL record — 27-45.

Strengths — Vinny Testaverde is a QB to build around and No. 1 draft choice Paul Gruber should excel at the critical LT position. Ample depth at LB and outstanding young CB in Ricky Reynolds.

Outlook — The NFL's youngest team is still filling in the pieces around Testaverde. Another rebuilding year for one of the league's perennial losers.

ATLANTA

ATLANTA HUSKIES — The members of the Atlanta High School varsity football team for 1988 include, by class: (Seniors) Matt Taylor, Jim Hopp, Brent Marlatt, Tom Ellingboe, Chuck Neilsen, Charlie Boman and Tighe Teets. (Juniors) Ryan Marlatt, Mike Dandy, E.J. Brzezinski, Kevin Hibner J.C. Richway, Duane Danks and Lonny Kent. (Sophomores) Don Karr and Daren Wolter. (Freshmen) Jay Parks, Chad Marlatt, John Corey, Brandon Wolter, Bill Ellingboe, Eric Weiss, and Robin Kent. Coaches are head coach Rod Marlatt and assistant coaches Pat McDonnell, Sam Parsons and Lauren VanNest.

Huskies set for another successful year

By STEVE FARMER
News Sports Editor

The Atlanta Huskies danced through another Cinderella season a year ago on their way to yet another berth in the Class D football playoffs.

And like Cinderella, again there are shoes to fill and questions to be answered concerning who will fill the shoes and how successfully they will be filled.

Last year the Huskies were faced with similar circumstances. Atlanta was a powerful team the year before, beating opponents by a combined average of 34-5 before being stunned in the playoffs 55-0 by Crystal Falls Forest Park.

The 1987 Huskies took on more of a finesse look, employing a passing attack which helped pull victory from the jaws of defeat on more than one occasion.

Atlanta beat AuGres — another Class D playoff team and conferece foe, 20-15 on a last-minute touchdown.

The Huskies also were involved in close wins over Inland Lakes, Posen, Hale and Johannesburg-Lewiston in an 8-1 regular season which ended with a 30-14 playoff loss to Engadine.

With a number of skilled players returning, it would be tough to bet against Atlanta's chances once again in a close battle.

Rod Marlatt returns for his 13th season as coach of the defending co-North Star League champions. He sees Hale, AuGres, Hillman and possibly Posen as forces to reckoned with in the league race this year, but the Huskies cannot be counte out.

Junior Ryan Marlatt (5 foot-9, 140 pounds) an sophomore Don Karr (5-10 155) are in competition for th starting quarterback spo Marlatt said junior Scot Johnson (5-11, 150) also ma see action as the Huski signal caller.

The three compete for th job vacated by all-are quarterback Bob Marlatt, bu Marlatt the coach said none o the three has to take the en tire leadership role upon thei shoulder.

"I don't look for tha necessarily from the quarte back," Marlatt said. "We loo at it that everyone should be leader on the field. (Th quarterback) has a job to d like any other position."

Marlatt said leadership i general has to come from up perclassmen. Though Atlant

(Continued to page 19C)

Atlanta High School

Head Coach: Rod Marlatt (13th season)
Nickname: Huskies
League: North Star
1987 Record: 8-2-0
Colors: Green and White
AD: Les Hall

No.		Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
1	Jay Parks	5-5	125	Fr.
2	Lonny Kent ★	5-9	170	Jr.
3	Don Karr ★	5-10	155	So.
4	E.J. Brzezinski ★	5-10	155	Jr.
5	Bill Ellingboe	5-8	140	Fr.
6	Jim Hopp ★	6-1	170	Sr.
7	Daren Wolter	5-11	140	So.
8	Kevin Hibner ★	5-9	160	Jr.
9	Chad Marlatt	6-1	160	Fr.
10	Chuck Neilsen	5-6	140	Sr.
11	Tom Ellingboe ★	5-10	170	Sr.
12	Ryan Marlatt ★	5-9	140	Jr.
13	Brent Marlatt ★	5-10	170	Sr.
50	Charlie Boman	5-11	155	Sr.
51	Robin Kent	5-7	155	Fr.
61	Eric Weiss	5-6	135	Fr.
62	Tighe Teets ★	5-7	150	Sr.
63	Brandon Wolter	5-8	150	Fr.
64	J.C. Richway	5-10	170	Jr.
70	Mike Dandy	5-10	165	Jr.
71	John Corey	5-10	190	Fr.
72	Matt Taylor ★	6-0	160	Sr.
--	Duane Danks ★	5-9	165	Jr.

★-returning letterman

1988 SCHEDULE

38	DeTour	0
Fri., Sept. 9	INDIAN RIVER INLAND LAKES	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 17	at Posen ★	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 23	HALE ★	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 30	at AuGres ★	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 7	at Hillman ★	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 14	ARENAC EASTERN ★	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 21	JOHANNESBURG-LEWISTON	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 29	at Mio ★	1:00 p.m.

★-North Star League Game
HOME GAMES ALL CAPS

HUSKIES

ATLANTA COACHES — The Atlanta football team will be coached this season by: (from left) assistant coaches Pat McDonnell and Sam Parsons, head coach Rod Marlatt and assistant coach Lauren VanNest.

Huskies could contend again for league title

(Continued from page 18C)

nas a core of strong seniors, the junior class returns a number of starters.

The rest of the backfield contains a senior and a junior, both of whom started last season.

Senior co-captain Tom Ellingboe (5-10, 170) gained 562 yards a year ago and junior halfback Lonny Kent (5-9, 170) ran for 694 yards.

Another big part of the offensive attack is senior split end Jim Hopp (6-1, 170), who was named to some all-state teams a year ago. Hopp hauled in 26 passes for 696 yards and 10 touchdowns last season and earned all-area status as well.

Wide receivers in the Huskie attack figure to be junior J.J. Covitz (5-10, 135) and Johnson. Senior co-captain Brent Marlatt (5-10, 170) mans the tight end spot.

Leading the linemen in the early stages of practice were senior guard Tighe Teets (5-7, 150) and junior E.J. Brzezinski (5-10, 155) at tackle. Marlatt said Teets may switch to center during the season.

Other offensive linemen competing for starting roles are Shawn Harwood, Derick Musto, junior J.C. Richway (5-10, 170) and junior Mike Dandy (5-10, 165).

The Huskie defense, which loses just three players from a year ago, should keep the team in most games.

Back from the defense are Ellingboe and Johnson at the end spots, Brent Marlatt, Teets and junior Kevin Hibner (5-9, 160) at linebacker and Karr and Brzezinski in the defensive backfield.

The defensive unit was strong enough Friday to register a shutout in a game which was shortened because of lightning at DeTour.

Atlanta won the game 38-0, showing that another Class D playoff berth is not out of its grasp. Last season the Huskies had one loss and still made the postseason.

Marlatt said the Huskies have not talked about team goals.

"We just play them one at a time," he said. "We just kind of think about the next game. The kids keep it in perspective."

Marlatt also said he can't compare Huskies to other Huskies. What he does say is that because of smaller numbers in the senior and sophomore classes, the juniors will have a major role this season.

The best comparing for Marlatt and Co. would come at the end of the season, saying another Huskie team followed in the steps of the one the previous year by making the playoffs.

1987 RESULTS

40	DeTour	9
8	Indian River Inland Lakes	6
38	Posen	20
18	Hale	13
20	AuGres	15
32	Arenac Eastern	13
24	Hillman	27
8	Johannesburg-Lewiston	0
34	Mio	0
14	Engadine	30
236	(8-2-0)	133

ATLANTA CAPTAINS — Serving as co-captains for the Atlanta football team are (left) Brent Marlatt and Tom Ellingboe.

ATLANTA LETTERMEN — Returning lettermen for the Atlanta football team this season include: (front row, from left) Jim Hopp, Ryan Marlatt, Tom Ellingboe, Brent Marlatt and Kevin Hibner. (Second row): Don Karr, E.J. Brzezinski, Matt Taylor and Tighe Teets. Missing: Lonny Kent.

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		Atlanta	Opp.
	Detour	38	0
Sept. 9	Inland Lakes		
Sept. 17	at Posen		
Sept. 23	Hale		
Sept. 30	at Augres		
Oct. 7	at Hillman		
Oct. 14	Aromac Eastern		
Oct. 21	Johannesburg-Lewiston		
Oct. 29	at Mio		

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Lions' Brown picked to NFL All-Underrated Team

NEW YORK (UPI) — Their credo states anonymity is good.

Offensive linemen are trapped in a devilish predicament. There are few statistics that gauge their performance. No touchdowns, no interceptions, no field goals.

They are simply big men whose television exposure usually comes in a terrible silhouette while the referee's voice resonates over the public-address system: "Holding, number sixty-three, offense."

So United Press International prefers to praise, not bury, offensive linemen, for they are surely honorable men.

The third UPI NFL All-Underrated Team boasts a group of offensive linemen that can power a running game and protect a passer, and none has ever been recognized by his peers for the Pro Bowl.

The tackles are Lomas Brown of Detroit and Pittsburgh's Tunch Ilkin, both repeat members of the UPI Team. Brown has made steady progress since being drafted on the first round in 1985. Ilkin, at 6-foot-3 and 265 pounds, is one of the Steelers' undersized linemen who compensates for lack of size with quickness and smarts to specialize in blocking for Pittsburgh's trapping schemes. He also has allowed just one sack in the past two seasons.

The guards are Washington's Raleigh McKenzie and Seattle's Bryan Millard, both of whom excel as run blockers. Billy Bryan of Denver is the center.

"I don't feel slighted," said Millard, a fifth-year pro from Texas. "Recognition comes when you win. But I'd have to be a crazy man not to have that goal (to reach the Pro Bowl). That distinguishes you as one of the best at what you do. Everybody wants to have that."

Among the offensive linemen who were considered for the Underrated Team were guards Terry Long of Pittsburgh, Mark Adickes of Kansas City, Tom Thayer of Chicago, Tom Newberry of the Rams and Dan Fike of Cleveland. Second-year players Bruce Armstrong and Danny Villa of New England were looked at among the tackles with Miami's Ronnie Lee. Tampa Bay's Randy Grimes also was a center possibility.

The most difficult positions to determine each year for the Underrated Team are in the offensive backfield because of the attention lavished on top running backs and quarterbacks. For the second time in three years, Steve DeBerg has gained the quarterback job, if for nothing else, his unfortunate timing.

DeBerg started in San Francisco, then Joe Montana came along; he started in Denver, then John Elway came along; he started in Tampa Bay, and first Steve Young then Vinny Testaverde came along.

DeBerg had one of his best years as a pro last season, completing 57.7 percent of his passes with 14 touchdowns and seven interceptions. But Testaverde was handed the job late in the campaign and DeBerg was shipped to Kansas City in the offseason. He is running second-string to Bill Kenney, but the jokes already have started: The Chiefs should expect to have the NFL's worst record this season so they can take UCLA star quarterback Troy Aikman in the draft, forcing another change in scenery for DeBerg.

The backs are a pair who have been overshadowed by more famous running mates. Dallas' Timmy Newsome has consistently produced some of the best receiving out of the backfield in the NFL, including 46, 48 and 34 catches over the past three years. With Tony Dorsett gone to Denver, Newsome may even run more, though Herschel Walker will be the workhorse.

Albert Bentley appeared to be coming into his own when the Colts acquired star halfback Eric Dickerson from the Rams during last season. Still, Bentley managed 631 yards rushing in 1987 and 34 receptions, and has moved Indianapolis to install a two-man backfield.

OK, quick now, which fandem led the NFL in receving yards last season? Miami's Mark Duper and Mark Clayton. No, but good guess. Washington's Art Monk and Gary Clark. Nope. How about Houston's Drew Hill and Ernest Givins? That's the ticket.

Hill, a member of last year's UPI Team, came within 11 yards during last season's strike-marred campaign of reaching 1,000 yards receiving for the third straight year. Givins was within 67 yards of totaling 1,000 for the second time in as many seasons.

Denver's Clarence Kay is the tight end.

Ilkin and Millard, when asked who they considered an underrated defensive lineman, both said Houston defensive end Ray Childress.

"He's a tough, hard-nosed competitor who I have to face twice a year," Ilkin said.

Joining Childress at end is New England's Garin Veris, who — despite 28 sacks in three NFL seasons — is often overlooked because of All-Pro linebacker Andre Tippett.

Henry Thomas, who plays defensive tackle on Minnesota's four-man line, is the nose tackle on the Underrated Team. He distinguished himself as a rookie as a fine run stopper.

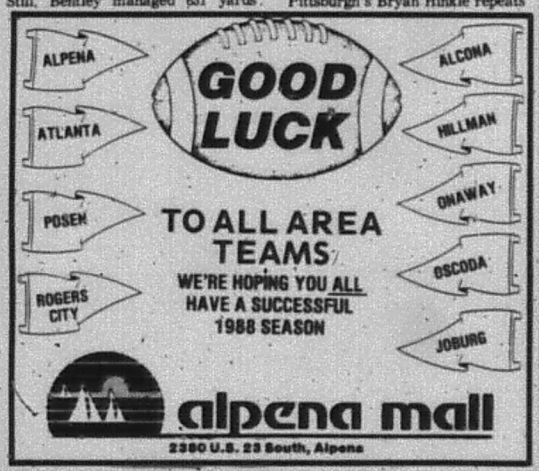
Pittsburgh's Bryan Hinkle repeats on the squad despite a sub-par 1987 season. He's united at outside linebacker with New Orleans' Pat Swilling, who had 10 1-2 sacks as a rookie. Swilling's Saints teammate Vaughn Johnson and Kansas City's Dino Hackett, both imposing tacklers, are the inside linebackers.

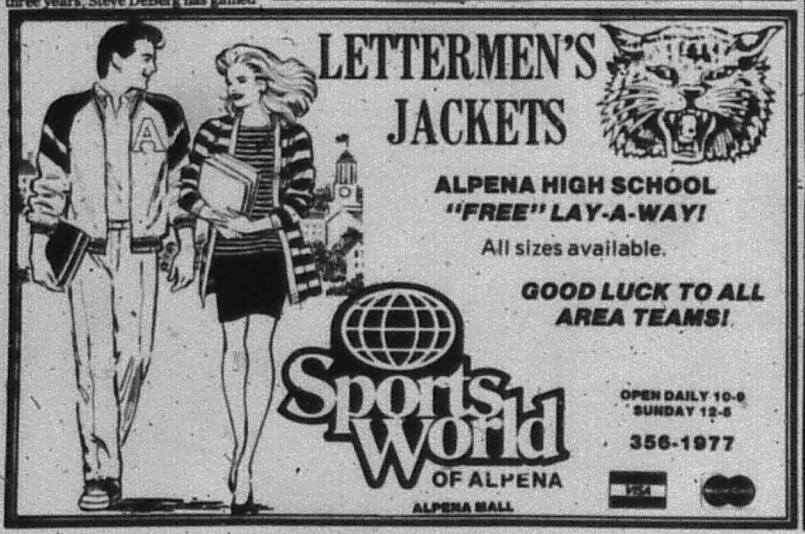
Two years ago, Lloyd Burruss made the Underrated Team then went to the Pro Bowl. Last year, Albert Lewis made the Underrated Team then went to the Pro Bowl. Cornerback Kevin Ross could follow in the steps of his Chief defensive backfield mates. New England's Ronnie Lippett, a sticky coverage man, is the other cornerback.

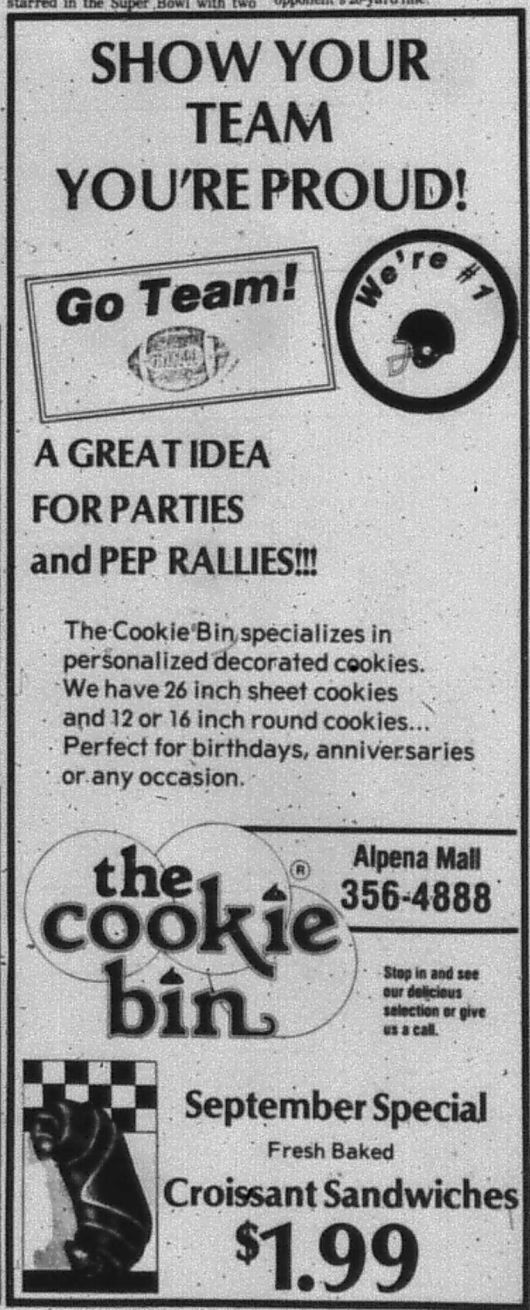
Washington's Alvin Walton, who starred in the Super Bowl with two sacks and seven tackles, is probably the NFL's best run-stopping strong safety. Felix Wright has assumed the starting free safety job and defensive signal calling for the Browns in the last year. A Pro Bowl could be next on his list.

New York Jets kicker Pat Leahy enters this season as the 11th-leading scorer in NFL history, the 13th-most accurate field goal kicker, with the 10th most field goals and having served for 14 years with one team — the most by any current kicker — in one of the profession's most tenuous jobs. Yet, he has never made the Pro Bowl.

The punter on the Underrated Team is Buffalo's John Kidd, a specialist at landing kicks inside the opponent's 20-yard line.



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NFL 1988

High-flying Browns launch third bid

By George Robinson

Not long ago, this was a mediocre division — much like the NFC Central before the rise of the Big Bad Bears. Now the Bernie Kosar-powered Cleveland Browns are hot. And, suddenly, both Centrals are ringing up big numbers.

The predicted order of finish in the AFC Central in 1988: 1. Cleveland Browns; 2. Houston Oilers; 3. Pittsburgh Steelers; 4. Cincinnati Bengals.

One more shot, that's all the Cleveland Browns (10-5 in 1987; 8-4 in non-strike games) want. One more shot at the Broncos in the AFC title game.

One miracle drive and one fumble were all that kept the Browns from being the AFC's sacrificial lamb in the last two Super Bowls. On the other hand, a big, physical team like Cleveland might have had a better shot than Denver against the NFC's New York Giants and Washington Redskins.

Start with Kosar at QB. He's smart and he's only 24. His passes aren't pretty but they get to their targets. And what targets! Webster Slaughter, Brian Brennan, Ozzie Newsome. Factor in a two-headed running attack of Kevin Mack and Earnest Byner and you have a team that can score.

They can also defend. Adding rookie OLB Clifford Charlton allows Cleveland to move Mike Junkin back inside. Rookie DE-NT Michael Dean Perry gives them depth upfront. Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield are probably the best corner combination in the league.

So, the Browns will get that one more shot.

The only team in this division with a chance of stopping them is Jerry Glanville's **Houston Oilers** (9-6 in 1987; 7-5 in non-strike games). These guys love to play the bad boy role — and this year a lot of people will be gunning for them. It may be their last shot at a playoff slot for a while.

QB Warren Moon is already 32. RB Alonzo Highsmith had his left knee scoped twice in the off-season. RB Mike Rozier was hurt a lot of last year. However, the Oiler's defense is aggressive and tough. It features youth and speed in an underrated secondary (where safety Keith Bostic excels), and a swarming, physical linebacking corps.

Good linebackers are the key to the **Pittsburgh Steelers** (8-7 in 1987; 6-6 in non-strike games) as well. But coach Chuck Noll needs to find some offense if the Steelers are to regain the lofty heights they reached in the '70s. QBs Todd Blackledge and Bubby Brister are not the Terry Bradshaws of the 1990s.

The **Cincinnati Bengals** (4-11 in 1987; 3-9 in non-strike games) have the opposite problem. Thanks to their mammoth offensive line and QB Boomer Esiason's arm, they can score at will. So can their opponents. No pass rush means overworked defensive backs. First-round pick Rickey Jackson was supposed to help in the secondary.

AFC CENTRAL

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Will Arena Football be another passing fancy?

NEW YORK (UPI) — In the wake of the 1988 Arena Bowl, few people are asking if the Detroit Drive can repeat as champions.

A more pertinent question is, will Arena Football repeat in 1989? Its founder, Jim Foster, says the indoor league will return next season and will be bigger and more visible than in 1988.

Arena Football completed its first full season (there was a 13-game test campaign in 1987) when Detroit upset the regular season champion Chicago Bruisers 24-13 in the Arena Bowl July 30 at Rosemont, Ill. On the eve of the title game, Foster said although none of the clubs made money, the vital signs point to a successful future.

"Overall, it's been a success," Foster said. "But as a first-year league, there have been problems. Some we anticipated, some we didn't. Overall, we're excited about the future of this league."

The chief problem was lower attendance than projected. Foster hoped the six teams would average 9,500 per game but the average attendance for 36 games was 8,513. Attendance ranged from a league high of 14,096 at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena to 5,707 for New England Steamroller games at the Providence (R.I.) Civic Center.

Chicago (8,004 at the Rosemont Horizon) and Pittsburgh (8,001 at the Civic Center) drew about the league average. The New York Knights (7,761 at Madison Square Garden) and Los Angeles Cobras (7,507 at the Sports Arena) were disappointing at the gate, mainly because they had losing records on the field. Lack of interest in the nation's top two markets spell trouble for any pro sports league.

"You cannot lose six straight in New York and expect to have good turnouts," Foster said of the last-place Knights, who were 0-6 at home and 2-4 on the road. "I guess it shows we don't fix games in this league."

Knights owner Russell Berrie promised to field a better team in New York next year.

"Fans will not come out for a losing team," Berrie said. "We have to fix some problems on the field for next year. We have more time to put together a team and more time to market the team for next season."

Foster said he expects all six teams back next year, and would like to add four franchises. The target areas are Florida, Texas, the West Coast and either the East or Midwest. Fifteen cities sent representatives to the Arena Bowl, including Miami, Orlando, Dallas, Atlanta, San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland, Seattle, Denver, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Washington and Knoxville-Nashville.

Foster said the Drive was a model franchise, and not just because Detroit won the league championship. The Drive's owner, Mike Ilitch, also owns the Red Wings of the NHL. The teams share an arena and staff, giving the Drive an established public relations crew. Foster said he wants more NHL and NBA owners to get involved in Arena Football next year.

Existing owners, who committed $1 million up front, were pleased with the early results, Foster said.

"We got through the first season, they're pleased with the product," he said. "We have to do a better job publicizing."

Berrie said the owners have a competitive nature that will force them to improve the league next year.

"The owners are happy, but not satisfied," he said. "They're like owners in any league. They're mad at the other owners, they're mad at the officials, they're mad at the league office. Yet they're happy, with the other owners, happy with the officials, happy with the league office."

Since Arena Football is an eight-man game played on a 50-yard field with the ball remaining in play after bouncing off nets flanking narrow goal posts, the players and strategy differ from the NFL. The players are smaller, with linemen averaging about 30 pounds less than the NFL. They are more versatile, however, since all but quarterbacks play both ways.

Arena Football emphasizes short passing because of the size of the field. Kicking is also important because teams are in field goal position almost anywhere on the field.

Unfortunately for the league, the players are far less known, too.

"We are creating stars," Foster said, pointing to players like Detroit's Duane Dixon, who led the league in receiving (79 catches) and scored 20 touchdowns, and Chicago quarterback Ben Bennett, a former Duke star who helped the Bruisers to a 10-1-1 record.

Arena teams are looking for players for their 1989 rosters. The scouting grounds include NFL camps.

"All our teams are out scouting NFL camps," Foster said. "We go out and look at the best players coming out of college that really don't fit the prototype of the NFL. Most of the time that means they're undersized.

"We've developed good relationship with NFL and they call us and tell us about players. We are not and will not become what the USFL was to the NFL. It's better to be different and take a little niche in the market than go head on and compete with the giant."

ALCONA TIGERS
FOOTBALL 1988

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ALCONA

ALCONA TIGERS — The members of the Alcona High School varsity football team for 1988 include: (front row, from left) Assistant coach Bill Desilets, Mike Sonnenberg, John Emington, Dave DuBuque, Bob Kohler and head coach Bob Petrovich. (Second row): Ken Sowecki, Andy Fasczewski, Kurt Potvin, Travis Swinson, Chris Girardin and Mike Lynch. (Third row): Manager Tony Seavase, Brad McDonald, Shawn Masters, Kyle Deller, Brian Somers, Jeff Majors and David Desilets. (Fourth row): Randy Wearing, Carl Shutt, Gary R. Dean, Richard Cutler, Leroy Hall, Jim Wachnicki and manager David Deller. (Fifth row): Michael Escareno, Gary M. Dean, Mike French, Jim Stoinski, Neil Somers and Bill Arndt.

Tigers hope to turn tables in '88 season

By STEVE FARMER
News Sports Editor

Hopes are high for the Alcona football team this season.

A season ago, expectations ran high for the Tigers, who had been in contention for Class C playoff berths for two straight seasons.

But a rash of injuries to key Alcona players not only eliminated the Tigers from playoff contention — it dropped them below the .500 mark at 3-6.

"Last year I think that the expectations were accurate," fifth-year head coach Bob Petrovich said. "There were things that happened we couldn't anticipate. If I had that team again I'd feel the same way. Last year the injuries were so constant."

However, Alcona was able to end the year on a positive note, winning three of its final five games, including a 7-0 shutout over rival Tawas to cap the season.

Petrovich hopes the winning edge can carry over into the present season.

"Finishing strong was an indication we can play good football," Petrovich said. "I think we proved to ourselves that we could beat some good teams and overcome some obstacles along the way."

The winning edge has carried over into the first part of the season. Alcona won its opener over Mio Friday 49-9, scoring all its points in the first half.

Though his players were virtually untested, Petrovich said preparing and executing under game situations was good for his team.

"You need to get the mechanics down for a game," he said. "You have to get organized and get prepared."

Petrovich said his team must go into each game as mentally and physically prepared as it can.

The Tigers must replace two-time all-area pick Mike Campbell at the linebacker position, but Alcona returns 14 players from last season, including a number of players in key positions.

John Emington, the team's quarterback a year ago,

(Continued to page 25C)

Alcona High School

Head Coach: Bob Petrovich (5th season) — 1987 Record: 3-6-0
Nickname: Tigers — Colors: Blue and Gold
League: Independent — AD: Wayne VanDyke

No.		Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
7	Ken Sowecki *	5-7	145	Sr.
9	John Emington *	5-9	160	Sr.
12	Bill Arndt	5-8	123	Jr.
18	Mike French	5-9	167	So.
20	Neil Somers *	5-4	163	Jr.
24	Chris Girardin *	5-8	160	Sr.
25	Jim Wachnicki	5-8	158	Jr.
27	Shawn Masters *	5-8	141	Jr.
29	Randy Wearing	5-9	131	Jr.
30	Mike Lynch *	5-6	160	Sr.
33	Gary R. Dean	5-9	147	Jr.
35	Kurt Potvin *	5-5	119	Sr.
44	Richard Cutler	5-10	165	Jr.
46	Jim Stoinski	5-11	173	So.
50	Carl Shutt	6-1	157	Sr.
51	Brian Somers *	5-8	196	Sr.
54	Mike Sonnenberg *	5-10	164	Sr.
55	Dave DuBuque *	6-2	176	Sr.
56	Andy Fasczewski *	5-5	166	Sr.
57	Bob Kohler *	6-1	203	Sr.
58	Gary M. Dean	5-9	189	Jr.
72	Jeff Majors	5-11	162	Jr.
75	Michael Escareno	5-10	204	Jr.
76	Leroy Hall	5-11	163	Jr.
84	David Desilets	5-10	120	Jr.
86	Brad McDonald	5-9	152	Jr.
87	Travis Swinson *	6-0	150	Sr.
89	Kyle Deller *	6-0	155	Sr.

* -returning letterman

1988 SCHEDULE

49	MIO	6
Fri., Sept. 9	at Oscoda	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 16	at Boyne City	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 23	at Onaway	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 30	HALE	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 8	at Bay City All Saints	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 14	WHITTEMORE-PRESCOTT	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 21	OGEMAW HEIGHTS	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 28	TAWAS	7:30 p.m.

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS

Tigers hope to return to winning ways in '88

(Continued from page 24C)

moves to end for his senior season. Emington (5-9, 160) is the team's most versatile athlete, Petrovich said, playing safety and handling both the punting and kicking duties.

Against Mio, Emington caught three first-half touchdown passes and kicked five of six extra points (the other was blocked). He also punted well, though not often.

Senior Chris Girardin (5-8, 160), one of the area's quickest athletes, returns at running back. He gained close to 500 yards in the Tigers' predominantly run-oriented offense last year. Joining Girardin in the backfield will be a number of players, including junior Richard Cutler (5-10, 165). The pair comprise probably the quickest pair of area running backs.

This season, Alcona hopes to put the ball in the air a little more. The player figuring to fling the pigskin is sophomore quarterback Mike French (5-9, 167).

Petrovich said French possesses good athletic ability and a good arm. Petrovich said as French gains confidence, he hopes his young signal caller can complete about 40 percent of his passes.

French did better against Mio, hitting on four of six passes for 97 yards and three touchdowns. Petrovich said the outing could ease French into his varsity career and provided the same results for a young team.

Protecting French up front will be a somewhat small, but, as Petrovich hopes, quick offensive line.

Leroy Hall (5-foot-11, 163 pounds) is the starting center and the lone junior on the line. The guard spots are manned by senior returning letterwinners Andy Fasczewski (5-5, 166) and Mike Sonnenberg (5-10, 164) while senior returning letterwinners Dave DuBuque (6-2, 176) and Bob Kohler (6-1, 203) are at tackle. Fasczewski and Sonnenberg were sometime starters last season.

On the defensive side of the ball, senior Mike Lynch (5-6, 170) and sophomore Jim Koinski (5-11, 173) will try to fill some of the void left by Campbell at linebacker.

Sonnenberg as the nose man, Kohler at defensive tackle and Emington at safety figure to be strong parts of the defense while Jeff Majors (5-11, 162), who has not played football before, has impressed Petrovich and should see action at defensive end. DuBuque, a team captain, also should start on defense.

With what he considers a small defense, Petrovich said the Tigers may switch defenses up often and possibly take chances.

"We can't sit in a defense," he said. "We're not big enough."

What is lacking in size hopefully can be made up in quickness, Petrovich said.

Alcona has 28 roster players compared to 25 a year ago, but Petrovich said this team is not as deep as last season. However, he is optimistic about the work ethic of the current group and the fact that the junior varsity has 35-40 players.

Competition for positions has been good, Petrovich said. He noted this has brought the team closer.

With an upgraded schedule last season, the Tigers are ready to pursue the level they played at two and three seasons ago — and possibly beyond.

To do so, the Tigers must take each game one at a time. Besides Mio, also new to the schedule are Hale and Boyne City. Petrovich said getting through the next three weeks will be important to Alcona, which then would likely be able to be competitive the rest of the way.

"These kids have to establish something," Petrovich said. "We have a legitimate chance to have the program continue to grow. We hope to get respect and credibility. I hope we can do that."

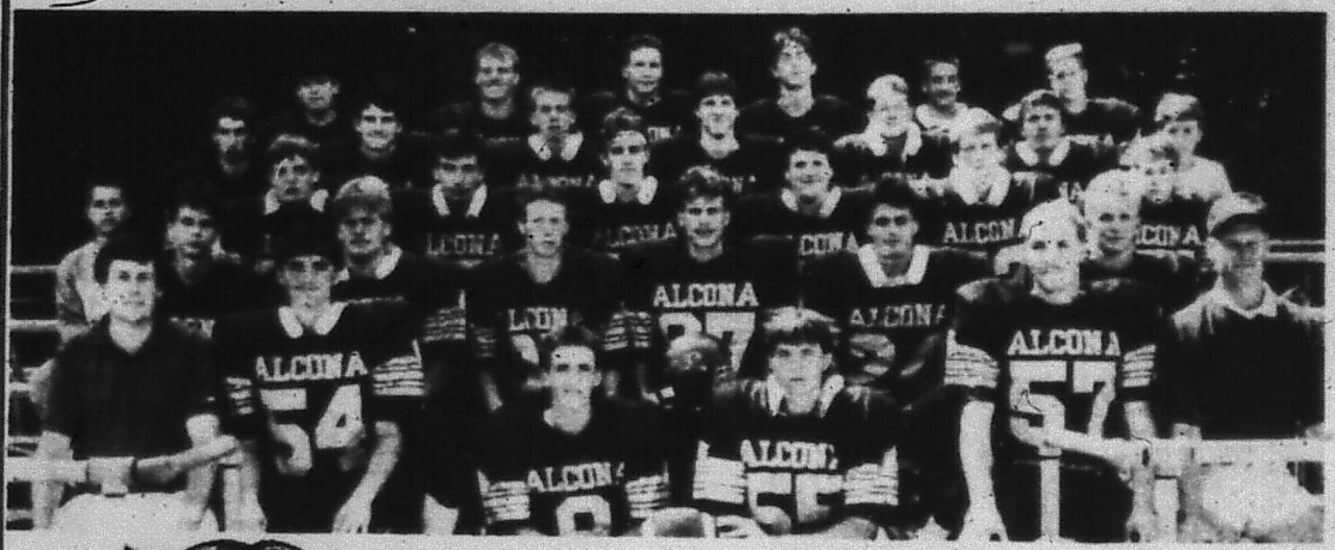
1987 RESULTS

0	Oscoda	14
8	AuGres	26
7	Ogemaw Heights	14
3	Carson City Crystal	22
32	Johannesburg-Lewiston	6
14	Bay City All Saints	41
32	Whittemore-Prescott	6
6	Onaway	14
7	Tawas	0
109	(3-6-0)	143

ALCONA CAPTAINS — Serving as co-captains for the Alcona football team are (middle, from left) Dave DuBuque and John Emington. Also pictured are head coach Bob Petrovich (left) and assistant coach Bill Desilets.

ALCONA LETTERMEN — Returning lettermen for the Alcona football team this season include: (front row, from left) Dave DuBuque, Neil Somess, Mike Lynch, Kurt Potvin, Chris Girardin, Andy Fasczewski and Shawn Masters. (Second row): Bob Kohler, Travis Swinson, Brian Somers, Kyle Deller, Ken Sowecki, John Emington and Mike Sonnenberg.

TIGERS



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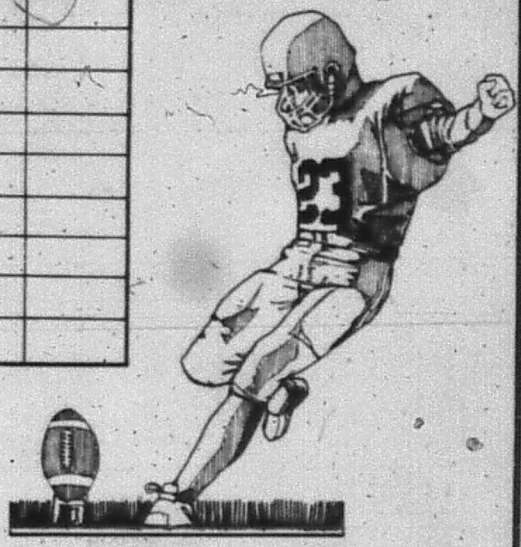
ALCONA TIGERS

1988 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	ALCONA	VISITORS
Friday September 2	Mio*		
Friday September 9	Oscoda		
Friday September 16	Boyne City		
Friday September 23	Onaway		
Friday September 30	Hale*		
Saturday October 8	Bay City		
Friday October 14	Homecoming Whittemore Prescott*		
Friday October 21	Ogemaw Heights*		
Friday October 28	Tawas*		

*HOME GAMES



Best of luck to the entire Alcona High School Football Team.

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Heisman candidates hope to impress voters early

By United Press International

NEW YORK (UPI) — For the first time in several years, the race for the Heisman Trophy appears to match the always competitive run for the national championship.

This year's contenders, varying in position and style, represent the nation's cross section. Each had a respectable 1987 season; the trick now is to impress Heisman voters early in '88.

An electrifying performance while leaves change colors could give several players an early edge but is unlikely to create a run-away winner such as Miami's Vinny Testaverde in 1986 and Notre Dame's Tim Brown last season.

UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman, already being touted as the top pick in next year's NFL draft, is the player most able to curtail this year's contest. The 6-foot-3, 217-pound passer threw for 2,527 yards and 17 touchdowns last season while leading the Bruins to a 10-2 mark. He will be showcased nationally against Nebraska Sept. 10.

"Winning the Heisman would cap off a successful college career," said Aikman, who transferred from Oklahoma after breaking his left leg against Miami as a sophomore. "But I'm not going into the season with sights on the Heisman — it would be an added bonus."

Aikman, who would join quarterback Gary Beban as a UCLA Heisman recipient, said his top "realistic" goal is representing the Pac-10 in the Jan. 2 Rose Bowl. Down the road at Southern California, however, Rodney Peete has the same intentions.

Peete, unlike his UCLA counterpart, depends on agility and quickness rather than pocket passing. Should the Trojans, 8-4 last year, continue toward their quest of regaining national prominence — and dispose of UCLA — Peete's Heisman stock would rise.

Other passers in contention include Iowa's Chuck Hartlieb, Nebraska's Steve Taylor and Oklahoma's Jamelle Holieway — whose teams could contend for the national title.

"The Heisman would be the culmination of 15 years of work," said Hartlieb, 9-1 as a starter for the Hawkeyes. "I've been playing quarterback since fourth grade."

QB's Steve Walsh of Miami, Tommy Hodson of Louisiana State and Todd Ellis of South Carolina are all formidable passers, but they're underclassmen and that never helps, especially with such a vast contingent of Heisman hopefuls.

Among the viable running backs are the top two returnees from last year's voting. Florida's Emmitt Smith and Alabama's Bobby Humphrey finished ninth and tenth, respectively.

"It would mean a lot being the first Heisman winner from Alabama," said Humphrey, the Crimson Tide's all-time career rusher. "Of course, it's just enough knowing it's the biggest honor one can receive in college."

Humphrey suffered a foot fracture this spring, then a broken jaw this summer after being attacked at a Tuscaloosa, Ala. disco. The loss of 20 pounds — 10 of which he will keep off — casts doubts about a quick start.

Smith, who rushed for 1,431 yards as a freshman last year, received support from people who knew he couldn't win. This year though, the sophomore won't get "nice effort" votes. To win, he must have a tremendous year.

Another Smith, Florida State's Sammie, averaged 7.1 yards a carry in '87. But although the Seminoles should be near or at the top of the polls, Smith, a junior, will undoubtedly suffer from a balanced offensive attack.

Other backs to be reckoned with include Texas's Eric Metcalf, son of former NFLer Terry, and Penn State's Blair Thomas, who may be redshirted if still hampered by a knee injury suffered before this year's Citrus Bowl.

Worthy of consideration despite playing less glamorous positions are defensive tackle Tracy Rocker of Auburn, defensive back Deion Sanders of Florida State and linebacker Broderick Thomas of Nebraska.

HEISMAN TRADITION — Rodney Peete (center), who hopes to become USC's fifth Heisman Trophy winner, is flanked by the other four recipients (left to right) Charles White, O.J. Simpson, Mike Garrett and Marcus Allen during USC's recent Centennial Celebration dinner, which was attended by almost 3,000 alumni, including 300 former players and coaches. (UPI)

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Columbia hopes string ends

NEW YORK (UPI) — Columbia begins the 1988 football season looking for its first victory after 41 straight defeats, a record for NCAA Division I teams.

The Lions, 0-10 in Division I-AA last year, are 0-42-2 since their last victory, against Yale Oct. 15, 1983.

Macalester (Minn.), which plays in Division III, is the all-time NCAA loser with a string of 50 consecutive defeats from Oct. 5, 1974 to Sept. 6, 1980.

Third-year Columbia coach Larry McElreavy can express optimism with the return of 17 starters, along with members of the freshman squad that went unbeaten in six games.

Leading the way will be will be John Alex, team leader with 86 tackles last year. Bart Barnett (77 tackles) returns at linebacker.

The biggest question on offense is who will replace Dave Putelo at quarterback, where Chris Della Pietra, a tailback who gained 350 yards in '87, battles Mike Seidewand. Whoever starts will be throwing to experienced receivers. Ron Kalyan, who had 17 catches last season, Terry Brown and Matt Fox all return.

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'87 TIGER SCHEDULE

Date	OPPONENT	Tigers	Opp.
Sept. 2	Rudyard - A		
Sept. 9	Pellston - A		
Sept. 16	AuGres - H		
Sept. 23	Arenac Eastern - H		
Oct. 1	Mio - A		
oct. 7	Joburg - H		
Oct. 14	Atlanta - H		
Oct. 22	Posen - A		
Oct. 28	Hale - A		

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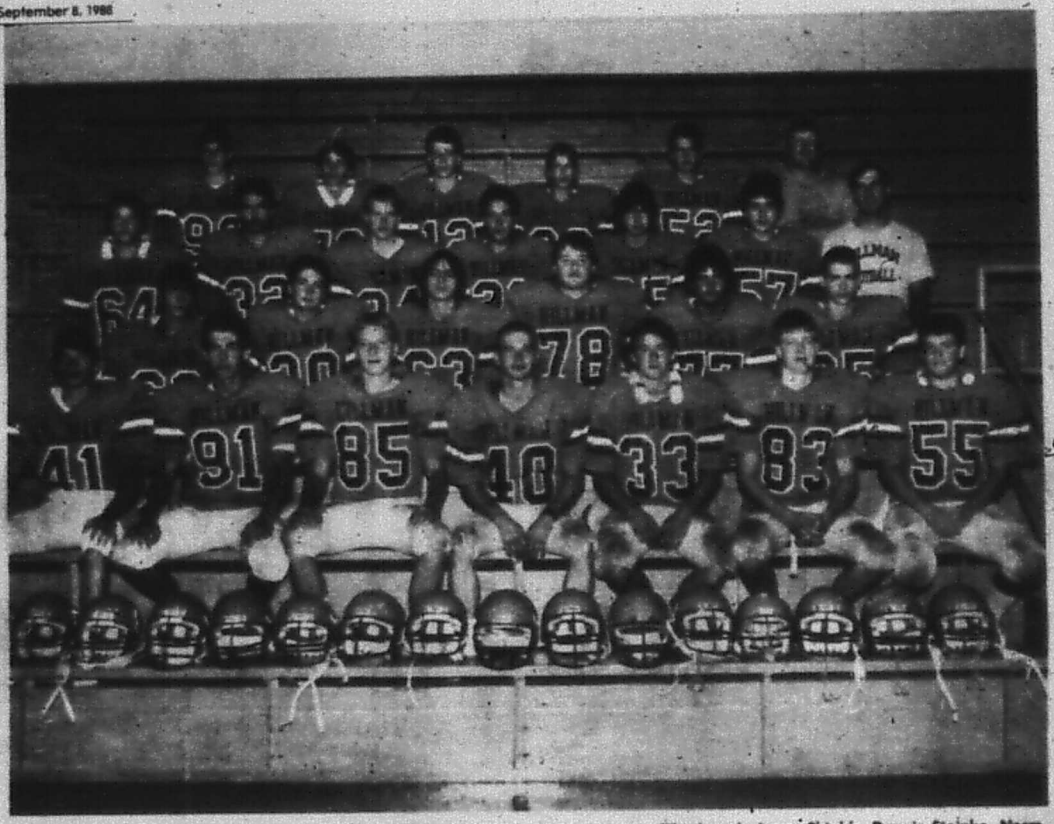


HILLMAN TIGERS — Members of the Hillman High School football team for the 1988 season include: (front row, from left) Joe Wittman, George VanderGeest, Brock Timm, Marty Fessler, Glenn Barrie, Kevin Bennett and Jim Dunleavy. (Second row): Ed Finley, Brian Atkinson, Tom Niswonger, John Kotzian, Larry Keech and Nelson Muma. (Third row): Aaron Shields, Darwin Steinke, Norm Linseman, Mike Zarate, Tom Hunt, Steve Compeau and head coach Mike Wojda. (Fourth row): Gabe Hardies, Todd Hunt, Chuck Bennett, Shawn Fessler, Ken Parent and assistant coach John Bradley.

Tigers try to reload for another season

By STEVE FARMER
News Sports Editor

The Dallas Cowboys once had a defense called the 'no-name defense.' The entire Hillman team of 1988 could rival the Dallas defenders.

The Tigers return nine players, five at skilled positions under 11-year head coach Mike Wojda. Of the nine, Wojda said none are dominating.

Hillman will be hard-pressed to replace two-time all-area selection Jeff Jones, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards last season.

Last year, Hillman had a strong senior contingent and moved over the .500 mark with a 5-4 record.

Wojda said the Tigers have developed slowly through practice, in part because of their youth.

"We haven't meshed together yet as a unit," he said. "Hopefully that will change as the younger guys work in."

Wojda said Jones cannot be replaced by just one player. Instead, he hopes skill position players can pick up the slack. Likewise, the whole team must rely on the same effort if it hopes to perform similarly to a year ago.

"This year we're going to have to get some real good team play in order to do that same thing," Wojda said.

Senior Matt Edison (5-foot-8, 150 pounds) was the starting quarterback a year ago and is expected to have a big part in the Tigers' season.

Edison was injured in practice last week and did not quarterback Hillman in Friday's 14-7 loss at Rudyard.

The game reinforced North Star League coaches' thinking that Hillman could be a tough obstacle to overcome in the NSL this season. The Tigers lost 36-14 last year to a Rudyard team that made it to the Class D playoffs.

If the Tigers do well, leader,

(Continued to page 31C)

Hillman High School

Head Coach: Mike Wojda (11th season) — 1987 Record: 5-4-0
Nickname: Tigers — Colors: Orange and Black
League: North Star — AD: Mike Wojda

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
5	Dave Jones	5-6	150	Jr.
11	Matt Edison *	5-8	150	Sr.
12	Chuck Bennett	5-11	160	So.
20	Brian Atkinson	5-8	145	Sr.
21	Mike Zarate	5-7	150	Jr.
24	Norm Linseman	5-5	117	Jr.
32	Darwin Steinke	5-9	143	Jr.
33	Glenn Barrie *	5-8	142	Jr.
35	Nelson Muma	5-10	165	Sr.
40	Marty Fessler *	5-7	135	Jr.
41	Jason Elowsky	5-9	160	Sr.
52	Ken Parent	5-7	160	So.
55	Jim Dunleavy *	5-10	185	Sr.
57	Steve Compeau	5-9	160	Jr.
62	Ed Finley	5-8	150	Sr.
63	Tom Niswonger	5-8	130	Jr.
64	Aaron Shields	5-6	143	Jr.
65	Tom Hunt *	5-7	135	Jr.
73	Todd Hunt	5-11	135	Jr.
77	Larry Keech *	5-10	180	Jr.
78	John Kotzian *	6-0	230	Jr.
83	Kevin Bennett *	6-3	185	Sr.
85	Brock Timm *	6-2	180	Sr.
90	Gabe Hardies	6-0	145	Jr.
91	George VanderGeest	6-3	160	Sr.

*-returning letterman

1988 SCHEDULE

7	Rudyard	14
Fri., Sept. 9	at Pellston	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 16	AuGRES *	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 23	ARENAC EASTERN *	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 1	at Mio *	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 7	JOHANNESBURG-LEWISTON	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 14	ATLANTA *	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 22	at Posen *	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 28	at Hale *	7:30 p.m.

*-North ar League Game — HOME GAMES ALL CAPS

TIGERS

1987 RESULTS

39	Mio	0
40	Pellston	14
0	AuGres	32
32	Arenac Eastern	6
14	Rudyard	36
6	Johannesburg-Lewiston	20
27	Atlanta	24
29	Posen	28
0	Hale	20
187	(5-4-0)	180

Tigers hope success in '87 can be carried over

(Continued from page 30C)

ship could be an important ingredient, as it was last season. Senior running back Glenn Barrie (5-10, 165) has emerged along with Edison as a team leader. Wojda also said seniors Brock Timm (6-2, 180) and Kevin Bennett (6-3, 185), both tight ends, could be potential leaders.

In the backfield along with Barrie is returning starting senior Marty Fessler (5-9, 160) at fullback. Also expected to see action in the backfield are juniors Nelson Muma (5-7, 135), Mike Zarate (5-7, 150) and Darwin Steinke (5-8, 142).

The experience on the offensive line could be the Tigers' biggest question mark.

The five projected starting linemen all are underclassmen. Junior tackle John Kotzian (6-0, 230) leads the way while junior Todd Hunt (5-11, 135) is the other tackle. The other returning letterman is junior guard Tom Hunt (5-7, 135) on the left side. The other guard is junior Aaron Shields (5-6, 143). At the center spot is sophomore Ken Parent (5-7, 160).

Competing for end spots are Timm, Bennett, juniors Gabe Hardies (6-0, 145) and Jason Elowsky (6-1, 160).

Hardies and sophomore Chuck Bennett (5-11, 160) combined to take over the quarterbacking duties Friday against Rudyard in Edison's absence.

On the defensive side of the ball, Barrie and both Hunts are expected to be the linebackers. Zarate could fill in at either linebacker or defensive back.

Other defensive backs include Chuck Bennett, Edison, Muma, Hardies and junior Norm Linseman (5-9, 143).

At least six players will be involved on a defensive line which may rotate players in a lot. Included among the group is junior Larry Keech (5-10, 180), Dunleavy, Timm, Kevin Bennett, Kotzian and Shields.

Last season, Hillman finished one game out of first place in the NSL. Wojda said he believes the conference will be similar to last season.

Hale had the strongest defensive team in the conference a year ago. Atlanta and AuGres both made it to the Class D playoffs last season.

Wojda has downplayed his team's chances in the league race while other coaches have given Hillman an outside chance to contend for the league crown.

"We're going to have to beat those teams (Atlanta, AuGres, Hale and league longshot Posen) if we want to do anything," Wojda said.

With a younger, smaller and less experienced team, Wojda said the Tigers will have to pull together if they hope for success.

The Tigers do possess similar speed and three juniors (Kotzian, Keech and Tom Hunt) with experience.

"If we get a few breaks early we could be in it," Wojda said.

HILLMAN COACHES — Guiding the Hillman football team are head coach Mike Wojda (left) and assistant coach John Bradley. Wojda, also the school's athletic director, is in his 11th season as Hillman coach.

HILLMAN LETTERMEN — Returning lettermen for the Hillman football team this season include: (front row, from left) Tom Hunt, Glenn Barrie, Jim Dunleavy and Marty Fessler. (Second row): Brock Timm, John Kotzian, Larry Keech and Kevin Bennett.

Many successful coaches still in relative obscurity

By United Press International

He has averaged nine victories per season in a 16-year coaching career and his winning percentage ranks No. 5 on the list of active Division I-A college football coaches.

His success rate of .747 dwarfs that of the always quotable Lou Holtz, yet Brigham Young's LaVell Edwards is an unwilling member of a large coaching fraternity: the All-Overlooked Team.

Edwards, Wake Forest's Bill Dooley, Bill Mallory of Indiana and Oklahoma State's Pat Jones are among those who labor in relative obscurity despite logging impressive records. Their fellow coaches know them well, as do the fans in their areas of operation, but on a national scale their names ring few bells among the football public.

"Bill Dooley simply did a great job last year," says East Carolina Coach Art Baker. "He's at a small school with high academics and he went 7-4. When you play against a team coached by Bill Dooley, you know you face hard-nosed defense, a great kicking game and fine special teams."

With 139 career victories, Dooley, who has also coached at North Carolina and Virginia Tech, stands 10th in Division I-A among active coaches. Last year, he led the Demon Deacons to their second-best record since 1950 and Dooley has 17 returning starters, including quarterback Mike Elkins.

"Our objective is to build a consistent winner here at Wake Forest and that certainly isn't done in just one season," says Dooley, whose older brother, Vince, has 192 victories at Georgia. "Our leader is Mike Elkins, who is one of the finest quarterbacks I've ever been associated with."

When Edwards took over at Brigham Young in 1972, the Cougars had never been to a bowl game. Eleven Western Athletic Conference championships later, Edwards is seeking a 13th bowl appearance and his second national title in five years.

"Among the coaches, I think the WAC is well-respected," says Utah Coach Jim Fassel. "But among the media and fans, because of population and exposure, it's not held in high esteem."

Under Edwards, BYU has led the nation in passing eight times and in total offense five times. Gifford Nielsen, Marc Wilson, Jim McMahon and Steve Young all flourished under Edwards' pro-style passing attack. After two straight second-place conference finishes, the Cougars — returning 13 starters — are seeking to recapture past glory.

"We've had a lot of adversity, a lot of things going on, not like what we've had in the past," Edwards says. "The sixth or seventh teams in this league can now give trouble to anyone."

After starting with an 0-11 slate at Indiana in 1984, Bill Mallory guided the Hoosiers to an 8-4 mark last season and a berth in the Peach Bowl. Mallory capped five years at Miami (Ohio) with an 11-0 season in 1973, then averaged seven victories per season at Colorado (1974-1978). He spent four years at Northern Illinois (25-19) before moving to Bloomington.

"We've made progress and we're more confident," says Mallory, who has 15 starters returning. "These kids know what it is to play for the Big Ten championship. Don't think that isn't important."

Jones is 34-13 in four years at Oklahoma State, leading the Cowboys to three bowl berths. He has yet to beat either Oklahoma or Nebraska and those formidable hurdles figure to again deny the Cowboys the Big Eight championship.

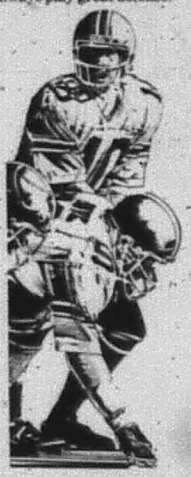
"My goal is to be as good as Pat Jones," says Iowa State Coach Jim Walden. "He's done the ultimate job."

Not quite. Beating Barry Switzer and Tom Osborne is still an unfulfilled task.

"I don't want us to gear our program around the fact that all we've got to do is beat Oklahoma and Nebraska," says Jones, who arrived in Stillwater with (current Miami coach) Jimmy Johnson in 1979.

Even Johnson could be considered underpublicized, given his extraordinary accomplishments in Miami. The former Oklahoma State coach is 33-3 in the last three years, including last season's national title and has won 32 straight regular-season games.

"I've known Jimmy for a long time," says Baker, who will be coaching against Johnson's Hurricanes for the fourth consecutive season. "Sure, he's always got his hair in place, he dresses immaculately and he struts a little bit ... but his teams are great in the fundamentals and always play great defense."



Win over Wisconsin big for WMU program

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) — It was one of the biggest highs for Western Michigan Coach Al Molde but an embarrassing low for Wisconsin Coach Don Morton.

"Let's say this is one of the big victories in the history of Western Michigan's program," Molde said Saturday of the Broncos' 24-14 come-from-behind victory over Wisconsin.

Morton said he was embarrassed by the Badgers' showing.

"The good news is we didn't have a lot of recruits at the game," he said. "We're embarrassed, but not to take away from Western Michigan. It was a victory they deserved. They played physically and I was impressed with their quickness."

The victory in the season opener for both teams was Western Michigan's first win over a Big Ten Conference team in 12 tries. Western Michigan is in the Mid-American conference.

Rob Davis ran for two touchdowns, Dave Kruse passed to Walter Cade for another and John Creek added a 35-yard field goal for the Broncos.

"The biggest hurdle we had to get over was a mental hurdle," said Molde. "I felt we had the talent but mentally it's hard to play a Big Ten team when a lot of your guys haven't done it before.

"We struggled early in the game, but we were fortunate that Wisconsin made a number of mistakes in the game and that helped us," he said.

The Wisconsin mistakes included five turnovers, among them a fumble at the 3-yard line that killed a potential scoring drive in the second quarter and a fumble that set up a Bronco touchdown in the third quarter.

Badger quarterback Tony Lowery said Wisconsin could not establish its running game and was forced to pass.

"They knew when we were going to throw," he said. "We thought we could win it. We can't go any lower."

Kruse said he was surprised by the outcome.

"For a Big Ten team, I thought they would be tougher," he said. "I think we're going to face tougher teams in the MAC conference."

Wisconsin took an 11-0 first-quarter lead on a 52-yard field goal by freshman kicker Rich Thompson, a 69-yard run by halfback Steve Vinci and a safety in which Wisconsin's Dan Batsch sacked Kruse in the end zone.

But after a 25-yard Wisconsin punt that gave the Broncos the ball on their own 48, Kruse directed a 52-yard drive that Davis capped with a 19-yard run up the middle with 7:49 left in the half.

In the third quarter Kruse engineered an 85-yard drive in which he handed off four consecutive times

to Davis, who on that series gained a total of 45 yards to the Wisconsin 22. Kruse then dropped back and threw in the right flat to Cade, who outraced defenders to the end zone. Creek's extra-point gave the Broncos a 14-11 lead.

On Wisconsin's next play 12 seconds later, quarterback Otis Flowers fumbled and defensive end Joel Smeenge recovered at the Badger 17-yard line. Three plays later, Davis ran two yards for a touchdown that with Creek's extra point put the Broncos up 21-11.

Wisconsin's Thompson added a 36-yard field goal after the Badgers stalled on the Western Michigan 18-yard line with 11:34 to go in the game.

Creek completed the scoring with a 35-yard field goal with 1:32 left.

The crowd of 38,230 was the smallest for a Wisconsin home opener since 1968, when 42,965 watched Washington beat the Badgers 21-17. It also was the smallest home attendance since 1968, when 37,469 saw Utah State beat Wisconsin 20-0 before 37,469.

Wisconsin has played Western Michigan twice before — winning 21-10 in 1981 and 41-0 in 1963.

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Kent State the favorite to take Mid-American Conference

By United Press International

Sixteen years have passed since Kent State University won the Mid-American Conference championship, but the presence of new head coach Dick Crum has helped make the Golden Flashes the preseason favorite in the nine-team league.

Crum, Kent State's third coach in four seasons, is returning to the MAC after 10 years at North Carolina. He won three MAC titles in a four-year stint at Miami (Ohio) University from 1974 to 1977.

Kent State, runner-up the last two years, returns 39 lettermen, including tailback Eric Wilkerson, the 1987 MAC offensive player of the year. Wilkerson led the nation with 2,074 all-purpose yards last season.

"I expect us to be able to move the football, esepcially on the ground," says Crum, who went 34-10-1 at Miami and 72-41-3 at North Carolina. "Having both Eric and Patrick (starting quarterback Young) together is important because one takes the pressure off the other."

Young, the 1986 MAC freshman of the year, played just 20 minutes last year because of a dislocated hip.

"The MAC is a dead-even league," said Crum. "Everybody contends. You'd need a crystal ball to predict a champion."

Nevertheless, Kent State, 7-4 in 1987, received 34 of 71 first-place votes and 640 points in a media poll. Eastern Michigan, which won the championship and defeated San Jose State in the California Bowl last year, placed second with eight first-place votes and 545 points.

Rounding out the MAC, with first-place votes and points in parentheses, was Bowling Green (11, 512), Western Michigan (7, 452) Central Michigan (2, 452), Toledo (6, 402), Ball State (2, 388), Miami (0, 234) and Ohio University (1, 209).

Eastern Michigan, with a school-record 10-2 in 1987, returns 38 players. Hurons Coach Jim Harkema, though, says new players will have to fill key spots on offense and the defensive line.

Bowling Green, 5-6 overall, has placed either first or second in the MAC the last six years. The Falcons have lost nine starters, but have experienced replacements on the Rockets' defense.

Western Michigan improved to 5-6 from a 3-8 mark in 1986, and continues to build up its offensive line. Broncos Coach Al Molde looks to senior linebacker Eric Hoffman to anchor the defense. "Our main concern is a lack of quality depth," said Molde. "But we had a good spring practice."

Central Michigan Coach Herb Deromedi again has uncertainty at quarterback as junior Randy Levels will guide the Chippewas, 5-5-1 in 1987. "A big key for us is the level of play and consistency we'll get from our quarterback," said Deromedi, in his 10th year at Central Michigan.

Toledo went 3-7-1 last year, but Coach Dam Simreli will have an experienced offense while looking for replacements on the Rockets' defense.

Coach Paul Schudel looks for Ball State, 4-7, to develop steadier play. The loss of five starters on defense, however, hampers the Cardinals.

Miami, 5-6, returns just seven starters and Coach Tim Rose must sort through a number of hopefuls at key positions, including quarterback, running back, linebacker and placekicker.

Ohio, 1-10 overall the last two years, has lost its last 18 MAC games. Coach Cleve Bryant hopes strong recruiting and experience in the form of 40 lettermen will help the Bobcats regroup.

ONAWAY CARDINALS

Date	Game: Opponent	Scoreway	Other
Fri. 9-2	Pellston A		
Fri. 9-9	Rock Mid Peninsula H		
Fri. 9-16	Pickford A		
Fri. 9-23	Alcona H		
Fri. 9-30	Joburg H		
Fri. 10-7	Newberry A		
Sat. 10-15	Boyne City H		
Fri. 10-21	Dansville A		
Fri. 10-28	Posen H		

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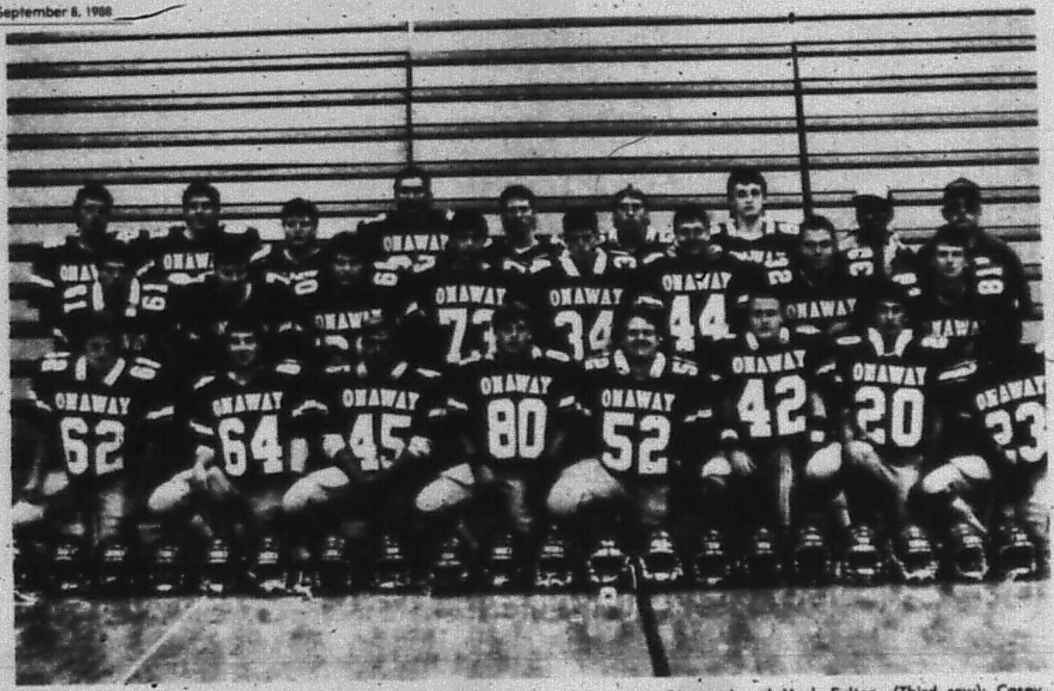
ONAWAY



ONAWAY CARDINALS — The members of the Onaway High School varsity football team for 1988 include: (front row, from left) Nate Sayers, Scot Reid, Brian Whitsitt, Bryan Madison, Tom Leach, Jeff Robbins, Scott Beem and Jihad Ford. (Second row): Corey Willey, John Preston, Joel Veihl, Nate Schroeder, Daron Shimel, Corey Kubacki, Doug Diamond and Mark Fulton. (Third row): Casey Milbocker, Evan Nixon, Wayne Berry, Kevin Freel, John Stump, Jim Stump, Matt Preseau, head coach Ivan Robbins and assistant coach Chuck Abshagen.

Cardinals think season can be a success

By STEVE FARMER
News Sports Editor

Youth movements can have their advantages and disadvantages.

In the case of the Onaway football team last season there was nothing to lose by going with a youth movement. The once powerful Cardinal program had a team which was winless in 1986.

So head coach Ivan Robbins, in his first season in 1987, played five sophomores heavily last year. The group, along with the rest of the Cardinal team, went on to post a 4-5 record.

This season the group still does not enjoy senior status. But its experience gained on the field last year could prove invaluable as Onaway hopes to record a winning season and represent the school in the early 1980s when the Cardinals were powerful.

Leading the way is Corey Kubacki, a returning all-area performer. The stocky Kubacki rushed for 770 yards a year ago and was second in area scoring with 81 points. On defense he made 87 tackles, 12 for losses, and added three interceptions and six fumble recoveries.

Also among the junior group is Brian Whitsitt, also a halfback. On the line are John Stump at tackle and Nate Schroeder at guard. At flanker is Jeff Robbins.

"These kids really have to come through for us this year, there's no question about it," Ivan Robbins said. "We hope they can pick up where they left off."

The Cardinal ball club came alive at the end of the season last year, with back-to-back wins over Alcona and Grayling.

Kubacki moves from fullback to halfback this year as the offense becomes more versatile. Robbins said the Cardinals may throw the ball more this season.

"I think we probably have the best receiving corps this school has ever seen," Robbins said.

The group consists of three flankers and five tight ends. The senior ends are Casey Milbocker and Evan Nixon while the senior flanker is Scott Beem. Jihad Ford, listed as a halfback on the roster, also will be counted on for pass catching.

The other ends are juniors Bryan Madison, Mark Fulton and Matt Preseau.

"They can catch the football," Robbins said. "The question is with our young offensive line can we get the ball to them?"

Up front for the Cardinals will be either Jim Stump or Cory Willie, who are competing for the center spot, Schroeder and Joel Veihl at the guards, John Stump at tackle and maybe Tom Leach at the other tackle.

Lack of depth also could

(Continued to page 35C)

Onaway High School

Head Coach: Ivan Robbins (2nd season)
Nickname: Cardinals
League: Independent

1987 Record: 4-5-0
Colors: Red and White
AD: Charlie Schaar

No.	Name	Grade
7	John Preston *	Sr.
20	Scott Beem *	Sr.
23	Jihad Ford	Sr.
27	Kevin Freel *	Sr.
32	Doug Diamond *	Sr.
34	Daron Shimel *	Sr.
42	Jeff Robbins *	Jr.
44	Corey Kubacki *	Jr.
45	Brian Whitsitt *	Jr.
46	Tom Cox	Sr.
50	Jim Stump *	Jr.
52	Tom Leach	Jr.
60	Joel Veihl	Jr.
61	Corey Willey	Jr.
62	Nate Sayers	Sr.
64	Scot Reid	Jr.
72	John Stump *	Jr.
73	Nate Schroeder *	Sr.
75	Wayne Berry	Jr.
80	Bryan Madison	Jr.
81	Mark Fulton	Jr.
82	Matt Preseau	Sr.
83	Evan Nixon	Sr.
85	Casey Milbocker	

*-returning letterman

1988 SCHEDULE

32	Pellston	0
Fri., Sept. 9	ROCK MID PENINSULA	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 16	at Pickford	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 23	ALCONA	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 30	JOHANNESBURG-LEWISTON	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 7	at Newberry	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 15	BOYNE CITY	2:00 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 21	at Dansville	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 28	POSEN	7:30 p.m.

HOME GAMES ALL CAPS

CARDINALS

1987 RESULTS

34	Pellston	8
0	Rogers City	20
6	Newberry	12
42	New Branch Wesleyan	6
12	St. Ignace	28
6	Boyne City	19
22	Charlevoix	27
14	Alcona	6
15	Grayling	8
151	(4-5-0)	134

Cardinal club tries to return fond memories

(Continued from page 34C)

hurt the Cardinals down the line. They do not possess a great deal up front and also recently lost two backs for the rest of the season after leg injuries.

Taking the snaps is senior Kevin Freel, who owns a strong throwing arm. Freel, an all-area basketball pick last season, is a good all-around athlete.

Joining Freel and Kubacki in the backfield is returning senior fullback Doug Diamond, the team's second leading rusher behind Kubacki last season. Whitsitt at halfback and Daron Shimel, a returning 135-pounder, at fullback.

Onaway's entire defensive unit with the exception of a pair of inside linebackers is back from last season.

At the end spots, three players — Whitsitt, Fulton and Milbocker — are competing for two starting positions. Returning juniors John Stump and Schroeder are the tackles and Jim Stump and Diamond are competing for the starting nose guard berth.

Jim Stump may also get work with the linebacking corps, which is headed by Kubacki. Other backers are Veihl and Preseau.

The Cardinal secondary is intact from a year ago with Beem, Shimel and Robbins back. But Ford has looked impressive in practice as has Madison, and both may earn their share of playing time.

Healthy and heated competition for playing time may make the Cardinals a better team by the time the year is finished.

"What makes us feel good is we have a lot of kids pushing each other," Robbins said. "We see the ability to switch a lot of kids offensively and defensively which will help keep us fresher."

Onaway proved for the second straight season it can stay fresh against Pellston. Last year the Cardinals won 34-8 in the season opener and had even less difficulty this year in a 32-0 win.

The Cardinals, who rolled up 426 yards in total offense, could not be much more pleased offensively. Onaway showed the ability to mix it up with Freel tossing a touchdown pass and four other players scoring rushing touchdowns.

As mature as the Cardinals may appear sometimes, Robbins is quick to point out his team still is young.

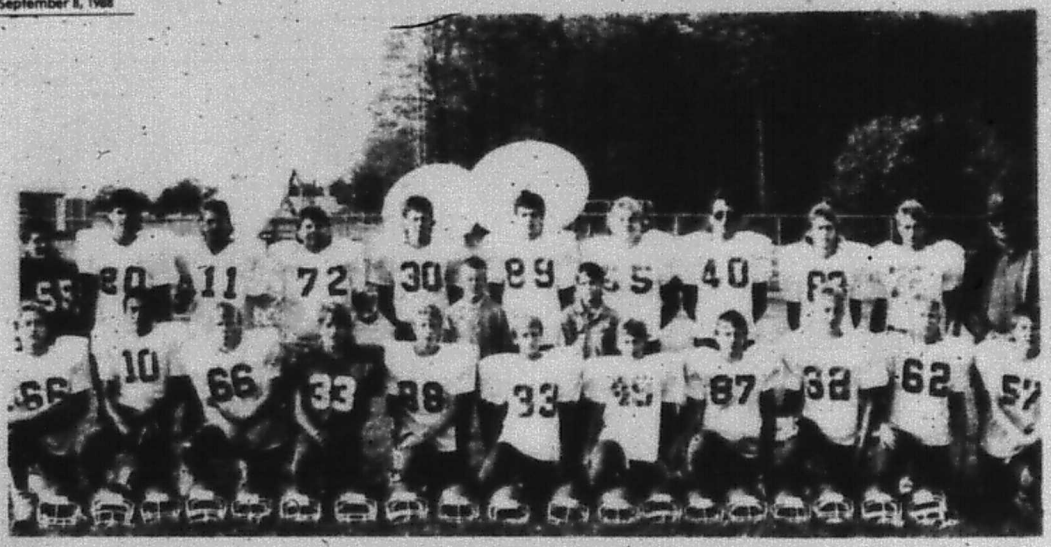
ONAWAY CAPTAINS — Serving as captains for the Onaway football team this season are (from right): Daron Shimel, Jeff Robbins, Corey Kubacki, Doug Diamond and John Stump.

ONAWAY RECEIVERS — The Onaway football team features an unusually strong receiving corps this season. Pictured are (front row, from left): Jeff Robbins, Bryan Madison, Scott Beem and Jihad Ford. (Second row): Mark Fulton, Casey Milbocker, Evan Nixon and Matt Preseau.

ONAWAY COACHES — The Onaway football team will be coached this season by head coach Ivan Robbins (left) and assistant coach Chuck Abshagen.

ONAWAY LETTERMEN — Returning lettermen for the Onaway football team this season include: (front row, from left) John Stump, Nate Schroeder, Brian Whitsitt, Jeff Robbins and Corey Kubacki. (Second row): John Preston, Daron Shimel, Scott Beem, Jim Stump, Doug Diamond and Kevin Freel.

POSEN



POSEN VIKINGS — The members of the Posen High School varsity football team for 1988 include: (front row, from left) Emil Soik, Pat Gearardo, Mark Kandow, Chris Husted, David Odalovich, Tim Styma, Chris Schuch, Eric Holderbaum, Ken Polaski, Jason Pilarski and Jerome Kowalski. (Second row): Gary Husted, Michael Schellie, Scott Olsen, Andy Morgan, Tom Shemanski, manager Randy Kroll, Paul Lewandowski, manager Derek Purgiel, Luke Kroll, Todd Hincka, Randy Purol, Steve Niedzwiecki and head coach Harry Kroll.

Posen trying to catch up after slow start

By STEVE FARMER
News Sports Editor

Posen has had its obstacles to overcome on its way to playing varsity football this season, but as the saying goes, better late than never.

The Vikings open their 1988 season Friday by traveling to DeTour. Posen had its opening game at home against Cedarville cancelled because of the school district's recent second millage defeat.

A group of Posen sports boosters are attempting to fund the school's sports teams, allowing them to resume their seasons.

But the Vikings were left further behind most high school football teams statewide. They put on pads for the first time less than two weeks ago in preparation for their upcoming campaign.

Fortunately for the Vikings, 12 players return from last year's 3-6 team, including seven starters, the most since head coach Harry Kroll took over the Posen program five years ago.

Many Viking players got together and worked out while they waited for a decision whether the program would continue. But nothing could substitute for the full workouts supervised by their coach.

"We were 10 days behind in practice," Kroll said. "It's going to test the character of the players because of all the distractions they've had."

Posen appears to be balanced talent-wise throughout the lineup, meaning its skilled players and linemen should be somewhat equal in talent.

The backfield will be full of returning players, though not all may be playing the same positions as last season.

Senior Tom Shemanski is expected to open at quarterback after playing tight end last season. Senior Scott Olsen, the quarterback a year ago, probably will shift to running back. Also returning in the backfield are senior Mark Kandow and junior Steve Niedzwiecki. Niedzwiecki was the leading Posen ground gainer the last five games a year ago and eclipsed the 100-yard mark once against Hillman. Junior Gary Husted provides depth in the backfield.

The Vikings also return four starting linemen from last season. Emil Soik and Andy Morgan are seniors while Luke Kroll is a junior this season and Jason Pilarski is a sophomore. One guard spot is open yet and may be taken by freshmen Eric Holderbaum or Jerome Kowalski or even Kandow, if he does not play fullback.

Michael Schellie, a sophomore, is back at the flanker spot, where he started last season. Senior Patrick Gearardo and junior Randy Purol are competing for the starting spot at split end.

Junior Todd Hincka started often last season in Posen's two tight end system. This year he is fighting with junior Paul Lewandowski for the starting berth.

The offense is capable, but must pick up the slack after the graduation of Clarence Hincka. Hincka was an all-area selection a year ago when he caught 36 passes for 909 yards and 10 touchdowns.

"On offense it's going to be hard," Kroll said. "This year our running backs are more mature. We're expecting more from them this year."

Defensively, most of the players will play both ways. Kroll, Morgan and Soik are the returning down linemen while Shemanski and Todd Hincka return as starting defensive ends.

Niedzwiecki and Kandow are the returning starting linebackers while Husted could push for a starting role. Olsen and Schellie return in the defensive backfield.

Posen is considered by conference coaches to be a

(Continued to page 37C)

Posen High School

Head Coach: Harry Kroll (5th season) — 1987 Record: 3-6-0
Nickname: Vikings — Colors: Red and White
League: North Star — AD: Clifford Kelly

No.	Name	Grade
11	Scott Olsen *	Sr.
20	Michael Schellie *	So.
22	Gary Husted	Jr.
25	Patrick Gearardo	Sr.
30	Thomas Shemanski *	Sr.
32	Ken Polaski *	So.
33	Timothy Styma *	Fr.
39	Mark Kandow *	Sr.
42	Steve Niedzwiecki *	Jr.
49	Chris Schuch	So.
50	Eric Holderbaum	Fr.
55	Luke Kroll *	Jr.
62	Jason Pilarski *	Fr.
66	Emil Soik *	Sr.
72	Andrew Morgan *	Sr.
80	Chris Husted	Fr.
82	Todd Hincka *	Jr.
83	Randy Purol	Jr.
88	David Odalovich	Jr.
89	Paul Lewandowski	Jr.
—	Derek Budnick	Fr.

*-returning letterman

1988 SCHEDULE

Fri., Sept. 9	at DeTour	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 17	ATLANTA *	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 23	at AuGres *	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 1	at Arenac Eastern *	1:00 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 8	at Mio *	1:00 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 15	HALE *	1:00 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 22	HILLMAN *	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 28	at Onaway	7:30 p.m.

*-North Star League game — HOME GAMES ALL CAPS

Posen hopes catch-up doesn't hinder success

(Continued from page 36C)

darkhorse to win the North Star League.

Kroll said the league should be interesting this season. He said offensive attacks around the league could change this season with the loss of big-play players to graduation.

Kroll said the late start could hurt his team, but that there's nothing it can do about past time — only the future.

"They know what the score is as far as the timetable," Kroll said. "They have to settle down as a team."

Kroll said maintaining self-confidence will be important, particularly in the early part of the season.

"One of the big things we're looking for is improvement and improving the record," Kroll said. "Last year we were close in a lot of ball games but we just didn't have that winning instinct. They're beginning to realize what it takes to become winners."

Kroll said one important ingredient is senior leadership. Last year Hincka provided leadership. Kroll said he expects a senior Viking to do the same thing soon.

Kroll said he likes the mix of players. On the roster are six seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores and four freshmen. He said the players are loose, though they are business-like when they step on the field.

The success in this season may not necessarily be measured in wons and losses, however.

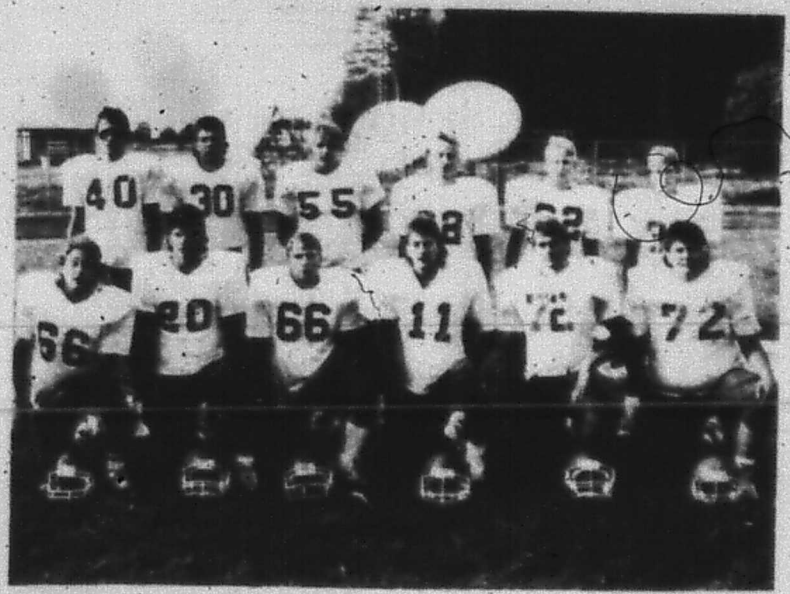
"I've been affiliated with most of (the players) since their freshman year," Kroll said. "I've got all the faith in the world in these guys and I think they can overcome what's been put in front of them."

1987 RESULTS

0	Cedarville	22
24	DeTour	12
20	Atlanta	38
8	AuGres	63
36	Arenac Eastern	0
6	Mio	0
0	Hale	15
26	Hillman	29
0	Rogers City	12
122	(3-6-0)	192

POSEN CAPTAINS — Serving as captains for the Posen football team this season are (from left): Tom Shemanski, Scott Olsen and Steve Niedzwiecki.

POSEN COACH — The Posen football team will be guided this season by fifth-year head coach Harry Kroll.



POSEN LETTERMEN — Returning lettermen for the Posen football team this season include: (front row, from left) Emil Soik, Michael Schellie, Mark Kandow, Scott Olsen, Steve Niedzwiecki and Andy Morgan. (Second row): Todd Hincka, Tom Shemanski, Luke Kroll, Ken Polaski, Jason Pilarski and Tim Styma.

VIKINGS

MIO

MIO THUNDERBOLTS — The members of the Mio High School varsity football team for 1988 include: (front row, from left) Travis Young, Jerry McMullen, Keith Gusler, Scott Gusler, David Bigler, Jerry Antkowiak and manager Jay Dallas. (Second row): Ken Butler, Eric Socia, Chris Hahn, Steve Shastal, Sean Gilbert, Jamie Kaufman, Steve Stilwell and manager Eric Stone. (Third row): Assistant coaches Tim Miller and Tim McFalda, head coach Mike Kaufman, Ken Fox, Troy Young, Tennis Cordell, Ted Stagg, Gabe Brown, John Nelson, Joe Stone, Brian Zalac, Jeff Dallas and Ryan Leaf.

Thunderbolts try to establish program

By STEVE FARMER
News Sports Editor

Since Mio resumed its football program, the Thunderbolts have been in a constant rebuilding stage.

It is one thing to have problems getting a program's feet on the ground, but Mio's numbers are not representative of the amount of boys in the school.

Head coach Mike Kaufman, beginning his second season, said about 15 prospects he thought may sign up to play football this year did not.

This season Mio has 26 players on its roster. However, just eight are returning letterwinners and just three are seniors. The Thunderbolts are carrying six freshmen and 10 sophomores on the roster.

The word rebuilding has been all too present in the Mio vocabulary.

"Every year we have to do that because of the number of kids who come out one year and not the next," Kaufman said. "We don' feel we're an established program by any means."

Last year the Thunderbolts took their lumps in a 1-8 season. The lone win was convincing — a 28-0 shutout over Arenac Eastern. Mio must continue to stress the positives.

The Thunderbolts ran into a tough Alcona team in their first game Friday night and yielded 49 first-half points in a 49-6 loss. But the positives the Mio coaching staff drew from the contest came in the team's final two drives in which the Thunderbolts scored in the first and came close to scoring in the second.

Mio possesses talented athletes but now needs to develop them into football players. The players are certainly not lacking in perseverance.

"Our attitude this year is fantastic," Kaufman said. "The players have been working extremely hard."

Ironically, Mio's most versatile athlete is its heaviest — Troy Young. Young, a junior, is the team's only 200-pound plus player (210 pounds). Last year he served as the team's quarterback. This season he switches to fullback.

"If you had 11 Troy Youngs you could go where you wanted," Kaufman said.

Taking over the quarterback spot is senior Tennis Cordell. Joining Young and Cordell in the backfield is returning senior letterwinner Jerry McMullen.

The linemen are not big (162-pound average), but do possess 'quickness which Kaufman hopes allows his team to freature a more well-rounded offense this season.

At center is junior Jeff Dallas, who played well on defense against Alcona Friday. The guards are juniors Steve Stilwell and Ted Stagg and the tackles are senior Scott Gusler, a converted halfback, and Ken Fox, a junior. Keith Gusler, a sophomore, could be the Thunderbolt starting tight end.

The defense is young and will be anchored by Young on the line. Stilwell, Mio's second heaviest player at 175 pounds, joins Young on the line. Cordell and Scott Gusler also

(Continued to page 39C).

Mio High School

Head Coach: Mike Kaufman (2nd season)
Nickname: Thunderbolts
League: North Star
1987 Record: 1-8-0
Colors: Blue and Gold
AD: Doug Graham

No.	Name	Wt.	Gr.
3	Steve Shastal	123	Fr.
9	Tennis Cordell *	155	Sr.
11	Jerry McMullen *	155	Sr.
13	Sean Gilbert	130	Fr.
17	Brian Zalac	140	So.
19	Troy Young *	210	Jr.
20	Chris Hahn	125	So.
24	Travis Young	140	Fr.
32	Brad Smart	130	So.
33	David Bigler	120	Fr.
34	Lee Wychoff	130	So.
52	Ken Butler	170	So.
54	Scott Gusler *	160	Sr.
60	Ryan Leaf	145	Fr.
62	Todd Taylor	125	Fr.
67	Jeff Dallas *	165	Jr.
69	Eric Socia	155	So.
70	Ted Stagg *	145	Jr.
71	Steve Stilwell	175	Jr.
74	Keith Gusler *	160	So.
75	Ken Fox	165	Jr.
79	Joe Stone	145	So.
84	John Nelson	140	Jr.
85	Jamie Kaufman	130	So.
86	Gabe Brown *	125	Jr.
88	Jerry Antkowiak	125	So.

* -returning letterman

1988 SCHEDULE

6	Alcona	49
Sat., Sept. 10	at Arenac Eastern *	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 16	at Johannesburg-Lewiston	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 23	at Whittemore-Prescott	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 1	HILLMAN *	1:00 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 8	POSEN *	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 14	at AuGres *	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 21	at Hale *	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 29	ATLANTA *	1:00 p.m.

* -North Star League game — HOME GAMES ALL CAPS

Thunderbolts hope to continue to improve

(Continued from page 38C)

could play on the lines, as may Keith Gusler and Dallas.

Fox and Stagg, both good open-field tacklers, man the linebacker spots. McMullen, junior Gabe Brown and sophomore Jamie Kaufman are expected to play often in the secondary.

Brown and Kaufman also showed promise offensively against Alcona. Brown, who came in to quarterback the team in a relief role, completed 14 of 25 passes and Kaufman was on the receiving end of many.

"We're lacking in experience but they've been learning well," Kaufman said of his players.

The coaching staff would like to see a team that could learn how to play, as well as learn how to win. Wins could get more kids out for football in Kaufman's summation.

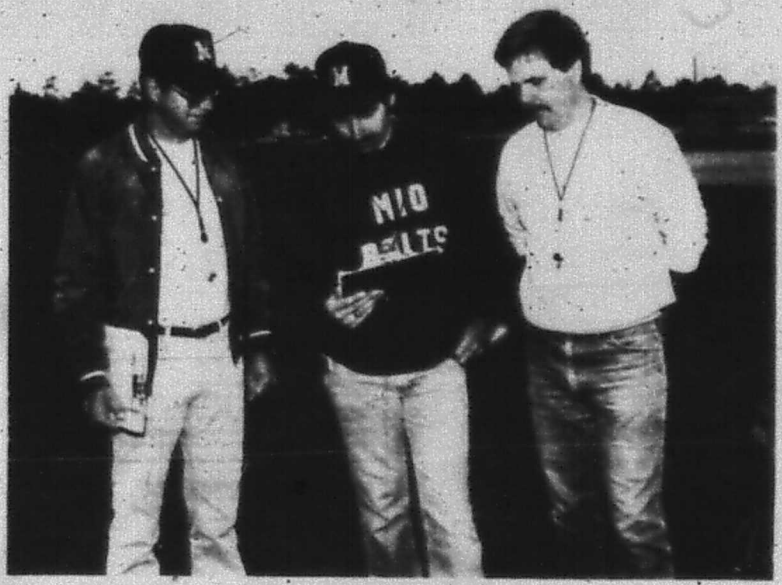
Last year's coaching staff of four had a combined total of one year's experience. This year's staff of three would like wins, but also would be pleased with progress.

"We still have to show we can compete with the other schools in the league," Kaufman said.

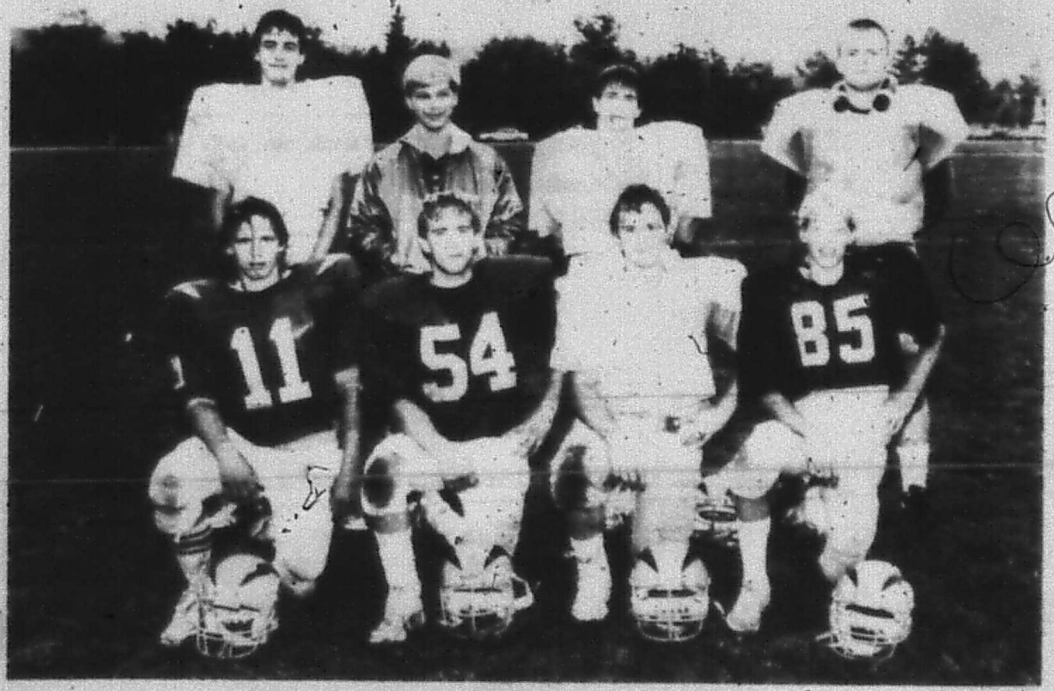
Kaufman said last year's offense and defense were not as suited for the team as they should have been. With a more suitable offense and defense for the 1988 Thunderbolts, Kaufman said his team may be able to do more of the little things better than a year ago.

1987 RESULTS

0	Hillman	39
28	Arenac Eastern	0
6	Johannesburg-Lewiston	25
0	Whittemore-Prescott	8
13	Pickford	30
0	Posen	6
0	AuGres	41
0	Hale	34
0	Atlanta	27
47	(1-8-0)	220



MIO COACHES — The Mio football team will be guided this season by (from left) head coach Mike Kaufman and assistant coaches Tim McFaldo and Tim Miller.



MIO LETTERMEN — Returning lettermen for the Mio football team this season include: (front row, from left) Jerry McMullen, Scott Gusler, Keith Gusler and Gabe Brown. (Second row): Tennis Cordell, Jeff Dallas, Ted Stagg and Troy Young.

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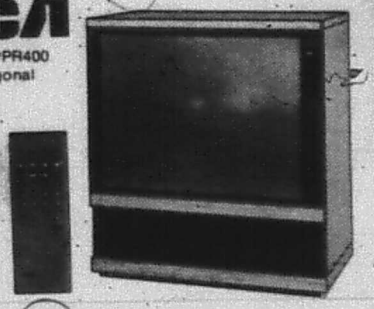

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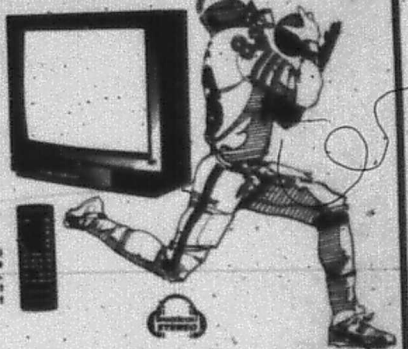

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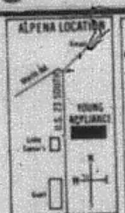

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